



# Python Eats Python: A Burmese Python (*Python bivittatus*) Preying on a Reticulated Python (*Malayopython reticulatus*) in Bangladesh

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The Burmese Python, *Python bivittatus* (Kuhl 1820), and the Reticulated Python, *Malayopython reticulatus* (Schneider 1801), are the only pythonids found in Bangladesh (Kabir et al. 2009; Baker et al. 2010). Based on

surveys of the literature, personal observations, and information gathered from social media (Deep Ecology and Snake Conservation Foundation; <https://facebook.com/groups/959896627527624/>), Burmese Pythons currently



**Figure 1.** A Burmese Python (*Python bivittatus*) preying on a Reticulated Python (*Malayopython reticulatus*) in Bandarban District, Bangladesh. Photograph by Adnan Azad.

exist in all divisions of the country (Khan 2018), whereas Reticulated Pythons have been recorded only from Sylhet and Chittagong Divisions (IUCN Bangladesh 2015; Khan 2018).

Bandarban District, Bangladesh, which is in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and part of the trans-boundary area with India and Myanmar, harbors diverse wildlife resources (IUCN Bangladesh 2002). Both species of pythons can be seen here occasionally in forests, but also in gardens, farms, and other human-modified habitats (IUCN Bangladesh 2015). Prey for both species includes lizards, birds, and mammals such as rodents, monkeys, small carnivores, deer, wild boar, and domesticated species (Secor and Diamond 1995; Fredriksson 2005).

On 3 October 2020, at Akiz Wildlife Farm, Bandarban District, Chittagong Division, Bangladesh (21.20999, 92.17955), we encountered a Burmese Python (*P. bivittatus*) (304.8 cm TBL) that had caught a Reticulated Python by the tail and coiled tightly around its prey before swallowing it tail-first (Fig. 1). The Reticulated Python tried to defend itself by constricting the Burmese Python but loosened its grip after being subjugated. From the initial strike to complete inges-

tion took about two hours. We counted the chickens on the farm and concluded that none had been eaten by either snake. To the best of our knowledge, this observation represents the first documented predation of *M. reticulatus* by *P. bivittatus*.

### Literature Cited

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