At about 0730 h on 18 August 2021, during a faunal survey in the southern Western Ghats, we encountered a near-fresh roadkilled Bibron’s Coralsnake (*Calliophis bibronii*) on the Mananthavady–Mysore highway at the Tholpetty Range of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala, India (11.8701, 76.0727; elev. 740 m asl). Bibron’s Coralsnake, an exceedingly rare snake known only from a few specimens, is endemic to the Western Ghats (Shankar and Ganesh 2009; Deepak et al. 2010).

We found a recently ingested Brahminy Blindsnake (*Indotyphlops braminus*) (~16 cm total length) in the coral snake (Fig. 1). These parthenogenetic blindsnakes are the smallest species of snake in India and among the most common snakes found in the region (Palot and Srivalsan 2017). Both predator and prey species are nocturnal and very difficult to find during the day.

Like most coralsnakes, Bibron’s Coralsnake is ophiophagous and is known to feed on smaller snakes, especially uropeltids (Whitaker and Captain 2004). This is the first record of a typhlopid snake in the diet of Bibron’s Coralsnake.

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**Figure 1.** A roadkilled Bibron’s Coralsnake (*Calliophis bibronii*) with a Brahminy Blindsnake (*Indotyphlops braminus*) (arrows) that had been ingested. Photographs by K.P. Dinesh.
Literature Cited


