



First Observation of Predation on an Amphibian by a Coin-marked Snake (*Hemorrhois nummifer*) in Iran

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Hemorrhois nummifer (Reuss 1834), commonly known as the Asian Racer or Coin-marked Snake, is distributed in some Greek islands, Cyprus, western and southern Turkey, southern Russia, the Middle East (Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the Sinai of Egypt, northern Iraq, northeastern Iran), and Asia Minor (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan [Schätti and Agasian 1985; Uetz et al. 2025]). The range overlaps widely with that of the Eurasian Marsh Frog, *Pelophylax ridibundus* (Pallas 1771) (Ranidae), which has been recorded in Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia,

Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Palestine, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, likely in China, Denmark, The Netherlands, Pakistan, and Yemen, and introduced in Belgium, China, Italy, Malta, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom (Frost 2025). *Hemorrhois nummifer* is known to feed on small mammals, birds and reptiles and their eggs, and arthropods (Kamali 2021). We herein describe a Coin-marked Snake preying on an amphibian.

At 1158 h on 24 July 2024, in the Darband Valley, Hamedan, Iran (34.827250, 48.038778), we observed a melanistic *H. nummifer* preying on a *P. ridibundus* (Fig. 1), which was ingested headfirst. We identified the individuals by comparing morphological characters with other individuals in the area and information in Mozaffari et al. (2016), Jablonski and Ahmed (2023), and Safaei-Mahroo et al. (2023). To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of a Coin-marked Snake feeding on a Eurasian Marsh Frog or any amphibian.

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Figure 1. A Coin-marked Snake (*Hemorrhois nummifer*) feeding on a Eurasian Marsh Frog (*Pelophylax ridibundus*) in the Darband Valley, Hamedan, Iran. Photograph by Mohsen Sheykhmohammadi.

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