REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Predation on a Black-eyed Litter Frog (*Leptobrachium nigrops*) by a Malayan Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla mycterizans*) in Selangor, Malaysia

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Understanding predator-prey interactions provides valuable insights on the evolution of defenses, foraging strategies, and the functional roles species play within ecosystems (Bateman et al. 2017; Schalk and Cove 2018; Mizsei et al. 2019; Junaid et al. 2025). Despite being the most speciose class of tetrapods, reptiles have received less attention in ecological research (e.g., Tingley et al. 2016; Doherty et al. 2020; Arana et al. 2023; Junaid 2025). Twenty species of arboreal, rear-fanged, mildly venomous Whipsnakes in the genus *Ahaetulla* are distributed throughout much of southern and southeastern Asia (Mohapatra et al. 2017; Mallik et al. 2020; Mirza et al. 2024).

The Malayan Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla mycterizans*), a diurnally active arboreal species distributed across Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, and Thailand (Miralles and David 2010; Grismer and Chan-Ard 2012; Lee et al. 2015; Uetz et al. 2026), inhabits forested foothills and disturbed, secondary forests at elevations from sea level to 350 m, where it feeds predominately on amphibians and reptiles (e.g., Grismer and Chan-Ard 2012; Figueroa et al. 2023; Goh et al. 2024).

The Black-eyed Litter Frog (*Leptobrachium nigrops*), is a leaf litter specialist that occurs in Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand (Berry and Hendrickson 1963; IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group 2021; Tan and Nishikawa 2023; Frost 2026), where it inhabits lowland rainforests and swamp forests and has been recorded in botanical gardens (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group 2021).



Figure 1. An adult Malayan Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla mycterizans*) preying on an adult Black-eyed Litter Frog (*Leptobrachium nigrops*) in Selangor, Malaysia. Photographs by Marcus Lucassen.

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At 2003 h on 28 January 2025, during a herpetofaunal survey in Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia (3.076523, 101.521912), we observed an adult *A. mycterizans* with an adult *L. nigrops* in its mouth (Fig. 1). Complete ingestion from the time of our initial observation took ten minutes. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of *A. mycterizans* preying on *L. nigrops*.

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