



Predation on a Splendid Fanged Frog (*Limnonectes splendissimus*) by a Dak Krong Mudsnake (*Myrrophis dakkrongensis*) in Lam Dong Province, Vietnam

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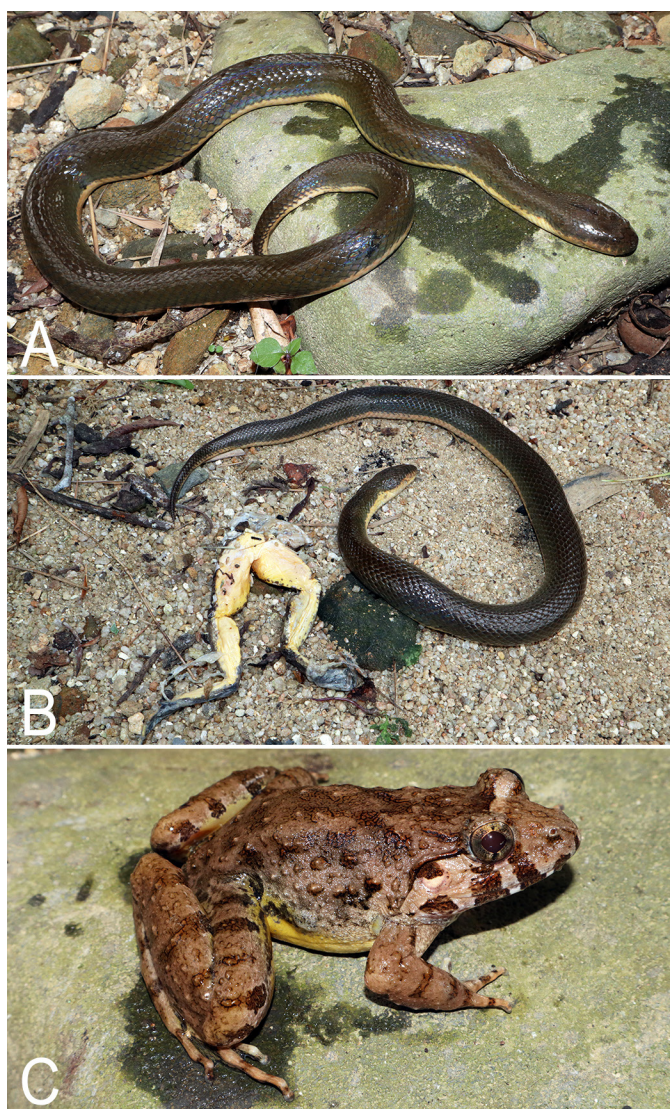
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The Dak Krong Mudsnake, *Myrrophis dakkrongensis* Nguyen, Le, Lathrop, Vo, Murphy, and Che 2024, was recently described from Dak Glong District, Dak Nong Province, Vietnam, as the third species in the genus *Myrrophis* (Nguyen et al. 2024) (the other two species in the genus, *M. bennettii* and *M. chinensis*, were described by Gray 1842). More recently, Chau et al. (2025) recorded this species in Bao Lam District, Lam Dong Province, Vietnam, thereby expanding its habitat from the freshwater wetlands and forest streams of the Dak Krong River Basin to the Dong Nai River Basin. The Splendid Fanged Frog, *Limnonectes splendissimus* Le, Nguyen, Murphy, Tran, Nguyen, and Che 2025, was described based on specimens from Di Linh and Duc Trong Districts, Lam Dong Province, Vietnam. We herein provide the first record of predation by *M. dakkrongensis* on *L. splendissimus*.

At 2200 h on 17 December 2022, we captured an adult female *M. dakkrongensis* (Fig. 1A) resting in a submerged cavity in a stream in secondary forest in Loc Bac Commune, Bao Lam District, Lam Dong Province, Vietnam (11.7787, 107.6847, WGS 84; elev. 600 m asl). The snake's morphology was consistent with the descriptions provided by Nguyen et al. (2024) and Chau et al. (2025). When we fixed and preserved the snake (LBA29, Zoology Laboratory, University of Science, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam), we found half of a frog of the genus *Limnonectes* in its stomach (Fig. 1B). This partially digested frog exhibited morphological characteris-

Figure 1. An adult female Dak Krong Mudsnake (*Myrrophis dakkrongensis*) from Loc Bac Commune, Bao Lam District, Lam Dong Province, Vietnam (A); the Dak Krong Mudsnake (LBA29) with a partly digested Splendid Fanged Frog (*Limnonectes splendissimus*) that had been in the snake's stomach (B); a Splendid Fanged Frog observed at the collection site (C). Photographs by Thinh Gia Tran.



tics consistent with *L. splendissimus* (Le et al. 2025); we also had observed many individuals of *L. splendissimus* along the stream at the collection site (Fig. 1C).

The diet of snakes in the genus *Myrrophis* consists primarily of fish, with occasional anurans and crustaceans, although no prey species were identified by Smith (1943) or Fabre et al. (2016). To the best of our knowledge, this is the first documented case of *M. dakkrongensis* preying on *L. splendissimus*. Although an isolated observation, this record contributes new insights into the natural history and ecology of *M. dakkrongensis* and its prey.

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