

# Predation on a Jack’s Watersnake (*Homalopsis mereijcoxi*) by a Jodi’s Pipesnake (*Cylindrophis jodiae*) in Thailand

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Snakes are a key group for exploring the ecological aspects of predator-prey relationships (Siers et al. 2025). They exhibit diverse dietary preferences (Voris and Murphy 2002; Song et al. 2025; Hallam and Junaid 2026) and swallow their prey whole (Glaudas et al. 2019). Diet also interacts with various other aspects of snake ecology, such as habitat use and activity patterns (Barends et al. 2025). Therefore, understanding what snakes eat provides valuable insights into their diversity and the ecological roles of different species (Barends and Maritz 2022).

Jack’s Watersnake, *Homalopsis mereijcoxi* (Homalopsidae) has been recorded from Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam (Pongcharoen et al. 2016; Bernstein et al. 2021; Uetz et al. 2026). Jodi’s Pipesnake, *Cylindrophis jodiae* (Cylindrophidae)

is widely distributed in China and mainland Southeast Asia (Amarashinghe et al. 2015; Kieckbusch et al. 2016; Ratnarathorn et al. 2024; Jiang et al. 2025). Snakes in the genus *Cylindrophis* are known to consume a wide variety of prey, including other species of snakes (Table 1). As both *H. mereijcoxi* and *C. jodiae* remain poorly studied, we herein present a novel observation of the latter preying on the former.

At 2100 h on 9 August 2023, during a herpetofaunal survey in Lak Si, Bangkok, Thailand (13.872585, 100.564324), we observed a *C. jodiae* that had caught a *H. mereijcoxi* on the edge of a small pond (Fig. 1). The anterior quarter of the watersnake was in the mouth of the pipesnake and ingestion was complete within 10 min. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of *C. jodiae* preying on *H. mereijcoxi*.

**Table 1.** Vertebrate prey of Pipesnakes in genus *Cylindrophis*. An asterisk (\*) denotes prey taken in captivity.

| Predator                                            | Prey                                                        | Reference          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Red-tailed Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis ruffus</i> ) | Masked Watersnake ( <i>Homalopsis buccata</i> )             | Smith 1914         |
| Red-tailed Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis ruffus</i> ) | Checkered Keelback ( <i>Fowlea piscator</i> )               | Smith 1921         |
| Red-tailed Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis ruffus</i> ) | Arboreal Salamander ( <i>Aneides lugubris</i> )*            | Greene 1983        |
| Red-tailed Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis ruffus</i> ) | Reuss’ Watersnake ( <i>Miralia alternans</i> )              | Iskandar 1987      |
| Red-tailed Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis ruffus</i> ) | Golden Shiner ( <i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i> )*           | Cundall 1995       |
| Red-tailed Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis ruffus</i> ) | Bluntnosed Minnow ( <i>Pimephales</i> spp.)*                | Cundall 1995       |
| Red-tailed Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis ruffus</i> ) | Mouse ( <i>Mus</i> spp.)*                                   | Cundall 1995       |
| Red-tailed Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis ruffus</i> ) | Koh Tao Island Caecilian ( <i>Ichthyophis kohtaoensis</i> ) | Kupfer et al. 2003 |
| Red-tailed Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis ruffus</i> ) | Asian Swamp Eel ( <i>Monopterus albus</i> )                 | Bezuijen 2009      |
| Red-tailed Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis ruffus</i> ) | Tentacled Snake ( <i>Erpeton tentaculatum</i> )             | Brooks et al. 2009 |
| Black Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis melanotus</i> )   | Apreocular Reedsnake ( <i>Calamaria apraeocularis</i> )     | Krone et al. 2025  |
| Jodi’s Pipesnake ( <i>Cylindrophis jodiae</i> )     | Jack’s Watersnake ( <i>Homalopsis mereijcoxi</i> )          | This study         |



**Figure 1.** A Jodi's Pipesnake (*Cylindrophis jodiae*) eating a Jack's Watersnake (*Homalopsis mereljcoxi*) in Lak Si, Bangkok, Thailand. Photographs by Marcus Lucassen. The identities of both snakes were confirmed by Soe Thandar Aung, Laboratory of Animal Behavior and Conservation, College of Life Sciences, Nanjing Forestry University, Nanjing, China.

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