

BUNGARUS CANDIDUS (Malayan Krait). **DIET.** The Malayan Krait (*Bungarus candidus* Linnaeus, 1758) is a nocturnal elapid that is widely distributed in mainland Southeast Asia, the Malayan Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, and Bali. Captive *B. candidus* are reported to prefer snakes as prey, especially freshwater species (Van Hoesel 1959. Ophidia Javanica. Bogor, Mus. Zool. Bogoriense, Pertjetakan Archip., 188 pp.; Campden-Main 1970. A Field Guide to the Snakes of South Vietnam. Washington, D.C., Division of Amphibians and Reptiles, U.S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, 114 pp.). Many captive specimens readily accept synbranchid eels (*Monopterus albus*), laboratory mice, and rats (Kuch 2001. Herpetol. Bull. 75:10–14; Kuch and Schneyer 1991. Sauria [E] 1:7–14). Specific records on the diet of wild specimens are rare; they include skinks (*Mabuaya* sp. and unidentified remains; N = 3; Lim in Tweedie 1983. The Snakes of Malaya. Singapore, Singapore Natl. Printers, 167 pp.; Slowinski. 1994. Herpetol. Rev. 25:51–53), caecilians (*Ichthyophis* sp.; N = 1; Grossmann and Schäfer. 2000. Sauria 22:45–46), and adult, mouse-size rodents (hair and incisors; N = 2; Kuch, *loc. cit.*), but snakes are not reported.

Here we report a colubrid snake (*Elaphe radiata*) as a natural prey item for *B. candidus*. Both prey and predator are deposited in the herpetological collection of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA (USNM). All measurements were taken from the ethanol-preserved specimens. An adult male *B. candidus* (960 mm SVL, 132 mm TL; USNM 167595) was collected at “Ca Lu, Vietnam”, in January 1969 by William T. McBighan. This locality name most likely refers to the village of Ca Lu, prior to 1971 located at 16°41'N, 106°55'E on the main road from Quang Tri City to Khe Sanh, at the base of Dong Ca Lu mountain ridge, a predominantly limestone part of the Annamese Cordillera (R. I. Crombie, pers. comm.).

The specimen of *B. candidus* was captured while eating the juvenile *E. radiata* (414 mm SVL, 89 mm TL; USNM 167596). The maximum diameter of the head of the *B. candidus* and the *E. radiata* (head width at the posterior angle of the jaw) was 19.3 mm and 9.1 mm, and the greatest diameter of the body (in both snakes midbody in dorsoventral axis) was 19.7 and 11.1 mm, respectively. Body mass of the ethanol-preserved snakes was determined to be 241.5 g for the *B. candidus* and 19.7 g for the *E. radiata* (prey/predator mass ratio ~ 0.08).

We thank Ronald I. Crombie of USNM for documenting the collection site of these snakes and reviewing the manuscript.

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