**New records of snakes (Squamata: Serpentes) from Hoa Binh Province, northwestern Vietnam**

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INTRODUCTION

In the recent checklist of the herpetofauna of Vietnam, Nguyen et al. (2009) listed 192 species of snakes. Since then 13 new country records, one new genus and 15 new species of snakes have been described from Vietnam (Ziegler & Nguyen 2010, Uetz et al. 2018). In Hoa Binh Province, previous studies documented a total of 34 species of snakes (Nguyen et al. 2009, Nguyen et al. 2010, Ziegler et al. 2010, Luu et al. 2011). In this paper, we report nine new records of snakes from Hoa Binh Province based on newly collected specimens from Thuong Tien, Hang Kia-Pa Co, Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong nature reserves, and Tan Lac District, comprising six species of Colubridae (Dryocalamus davisonii, Euprepiophis mandarinus, Lycodon futsingensis, L. meridionalis, Sibynphis collaris and Sinonatrix aquifasciata), one species of Pareatidae (Pareas hamptoni) and two species of Viperidae (Protobothrops mucrosquamatus and Trimeresurus gumprechti). In addition, we provide an updated list of 43 snake species from Hoa Binh Province. The snake fauna of Hoa Binh contains some species of conservation concern with seven species listed in the Governmental Decree No. 32/2006/ND-CP (2006), nine species listed in the Vietnam Red Data Book (2007), and three species listed in the IUCN Red List (2018).

Key words. New records, snakes, taxonomy, Hoa Binh Province.

MATERIAL & METHODS

Field surveys were conducted in Thuong Tien Nature Reserve (hereafter NR) by V.Q. Luu in March 2009; in Hang Kia-Pa Co and Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong NR, in April, May, September, and October 2014 and April 2015 by T.Q. Nguyen, C.T. Pham, C.V. Hoang, H.N. Ngo, M.D. Le, H.T. An (hereafter TQN et al.) and in Tan Lac District in June 2016 by C.T. Pham, T.V. Nguyen, N.H. Nguyen (hereafter CTP et al.). Specimens were collected by hand or by using a snake hook between 8:00 and 23:00 hrs. Most specimens were photographed in life. Specimens were euthanized in a closed vessel with a piece of cotton wool containing ethyl acetate (Simmons, 2002), fixed in 85% ethanol and subsequently stored in 70% ethanol. Tissue samples of some species were kept separately in 90% ethanol. Specimens were deposited in the collections of the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR), Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam.

Taxonomic identifications of the specimens were made based on the following literature: Smith (1943), Taylor (1965), David et al. (2002), Vogel et al. (2004), Gumprecht et al. (2004), Orlov et al. (2004, 2011), Kim & Oh (2006), Stuart & Heatwole (2008), Yang et al. (2008), Vogel et al. (2009), Hecht et al. (2013), Luu et al. (2013a,b), Le et al. (2015), Nguyen et al. (2011, 2014), Ziegler et al. (2007, 2014), Nemes et al. (2013), Nguyen et al. (2016), Vassilieva et al. (2016), and Pham et al. (2017). For common names, we followed Nguyen et al. (2009) and Uetz et al. (2018). Abbreviations used for morphometry are as follows: SVL (snout-vent length): from tip of snout to anterior margin of cloaca; TaL (tail length): from posterior margin of cloaca to tip of tail.

Identification of sex was performed by dissection (inspection of gonads and inspection of presence of hemi-
Fig. 1. Map showing the survey site (black square) in Hoa Binh Province, Vietnam.
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RESULTS

Taxonomic accounts

Family Colubridae

Dryocalamus davisonii (Blanford, 1878)
Bridle Snake / Rắn dề (Fig. 2a)

Specimen examined (n = 1): IEBR 4058 (adult female) collected by TQN et al. on 22 May 2014, in Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong NR, Lac Son District (20°24.909′N, 105°19.102′E; elevation 350 m above sea level [hereafter asl]).

Description: Morphological characters of the specimen from Hoa Binh Province agreed well with the descriptions of Smith (1943), Taylor (1965), Das (2010), Orlov et al. (2011), and Vassilieva et al. (2015). SVL 587.7 mm, TaL 191.4 mm. Head distinct from neck; nasal undivided; loreal 1/1, touching the eye; preocular absent; postoculars 2/2; anterior temporal 1/1; posterior temporals 2/2; supralabials 7/7, third and fourth entering orbit; infralabials 8/8; dorsal scale rows 13–13–13, all smooth; ventrals 239 (+ 1 previdental); cloacal undivided; subcaudals 109, divided.

Coloration in life: Dorsum black with 45 white crossbars and 26 other bars on tail; white cross-bar narrower at posterior part of body; head dark brown with pale cream-colored elongated spots on each side, from parietal shield to supraorbital; venter cream anteriorly, grey posteriorly.

Ecological notes: The specimen was found at 22:00 on the ground. The surrounding habitat was secondary forest composed of medium and small hardwoods and shrub.

Distribution: In Vietnam, this species has been recorded from the Central Highlands southwards to Dak Lak Province. This is the first record of *E. mandarinus* from Hang Kia-Pa Co NR, Mai Chau District (20°43.445′N, 104°53.310′E; elevation 1381 m asl).

Description: Morphological characters of the specimen from Hoa Binh Province agreed well with the descriptions of Smith (1943), Yang & Rao (2008), Das (2010), and Ziegler et al. (2014). The photographed specimen resembles *Euprepiophis mandarinus* in the following characters: Dorsum brown above, with a series of large black, diamond shaped marks that enclose oval, rounded or squarish yellow spots; black marks edged by narrow yellow margins; head with three black marking-bands across snout, a crescent V-shaped mark through the eye and divided into two stripes, and a forward pointing shaped mark on the neck.

Ecological notes: The specimen was found at 21:30 on the ground, on the banks of a rocky stream. The surrounding habitat was secondary forest composed of medium and small hardwoods and shrub.

Distribution: In Vietnam, this species has been recorded from Lai Chau and Ha Giang provinces in the North southwards to Dak Lak Province. This is the first record of *E. mandarinus* from Hang Kia-Pa Co NR as well as from Hoa Binh Province. Elsewhere, the species has been reported from India, China, Taiwan, Myanmar and Laos (Nguyen et al. 2009, Ziegler et al. 2014).

Lycodon futsingensis (Pope, 1928)
Futsing Wolf Snake / Rắn khuyết fut-sing (Fig. 2c)

Specimen examined (n = 1): IEBR 4171 (juvenile) collected by TQN et al. on 14 April 2014, in Hang Kia-Pa Co NR, Mai Chau District (20°43.667′N, 104°51.823′E; elevation 901 m asl).

Description: Morphological characters of the specimen from Hoa Binh Province agreed well with the descriptions of Vogel et al. (2009), Hecht et al. (2013), Luu et al. (2013), Nguyen et al. (2014), Nguyen et al. (2016), and Pham et al. (2017). SVL 265.9 mm, TaL 75.7 mm. Head distinct from neck; rostral broader than high; internasal not in contact with loreal; nasal divided; loreal 1/1, small, not touching the eye; preocular 1/1; subocular absent; postoculars 2/2; anterior temporals 2/2; posterior temporals 2/2; supralabials 8/8, third to fifth entering orbit; infralabials 10/10; dorsal scale rows 17–17–15, all smooth; ventrals 202 (+ 1 previdental); cloacal undivided; subcaudals 90, divided.

Coloration in life: Dorsum pale brownish grey with 27 brown rings on body and 8 rings on the tail; head dark brown with a large light band, from eye to neck; the rings wider at base, the first one starting at ventral scale 15, at its base comprising 6 ventrals in width and dorsally comprising 2 dorsal scales; venter cream, with dark marble, dark grey posteriorly.

Ecological notes: The specimen was found at 21:00 on a forest path. The surrounding habitat was secondary forest composed of small hardwoods, liane and shrub.
Distribution. In Vietnam, this species was reported from Lao Cai Province in the North southwards to Da Nang City. This is the first record of *L. futsingensis* from Hang Kia-Pa Co NR as well as from Hoa Binh Province. Elsewhere, the species has been reported from China and Laos (Nguyen et al. 2009, Luu et al. 2013, Nguyen et al. 2016, Pham et al. 2017).

**Lycodon meridionalis** (Bourret, 1935)
Southern Big-tooth Snake / Rắn lệch đầu kim tuyến (Fig. 2d)
Specimens examined (n = 4): IEBR 4050, 4051 (two adult males), and IEBR 4156 (adult female) collected by TQN et al. in April 2014, in Hang Kia-Pa Co NR, Mai Chau District (20°25.072’N, 105°19.102’E; elevation...
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300 m asl.); and IEBR 4154 (adult male) collected by CTP et al. on 19 June 2016, in Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong NR, Lac Son District (20°28’07.6”N, 105°18.216”E; elevation 733 m asl.)

Description: Morphological characters of the specimens from Hoa Binh Province agreed well with the descriptions of Orlov & Ryabov (2004), Hecht et al. (2013), Ziegler et al. (2014), and Nguyen et al. (2016). SVL: 929.5–1341.7 mm in males (n = 3), 873.1 mm in the single female (n = 1), TaL: 246.7–364.8 mm in males (n = 3), 258.7 mm in the single female (n = 1). Head distinct from neck; internasals not in contact with loreal; nasal divided; loreal 1/1, not touching the eye; preocular 1/1; subocular absent; postoculars 2/2; anterior temporals 2/2; posterior temporals 3/3; supralabials 8/8, third to fifth entering orbit; infralabials 10/10; dorsal scale rows 17–17–15, strongly keeled except 5 outermost rows smooth, outer dorsal scales enlarged; ventrals 242–257 (+ 2–3 preventrals); cloacal undivided; subcaudals 100–118, divided.

Coloration in life: Dorsum black with 100–119 narrow yellow cross-bars on body and 31–41 on tail, bifurcated on the sides, enclosing dark spots; head black with symmetrical light markings, the most conspicuous being the one running from the eye to the margin of the snout and another stretching from the hind margin of the parietals; venter light yellow.

Ecological notes: The specimens were found between 19:00 and 22:30, on the ground or on rocks. The surrounding habitat was secondary forest composed of medium and small hardwoods, liane and shrub.

Distribution: In Vietnam, this species has been reported from Lao Cai and Ha Giang provinces in the North southwards to Thanh Hoa Province. This is the first record of L. meridionalis from Hang Kha-Pa Co and Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong NRs as well as from Hoa Binh Province. Elsewhere, the species has been reported from China and Laos (Nguyen et al. 2009, Ziegler et al. 2014, Nguyen et al. 2016).

**Sibynophis collaris** (Gray, 1853)

Common Many-tooth Snake / Rắn rồng cổ đen (Fig. 2e)

Specimen examined (n = 1): IEBR 4224 (adult female) collected by V.Q. Luu in March 2009, in Thuong Tien NR, Kim Boi District (near 20°36’N, 105°29’E; elevation 608 m asl.).

Description: Morphological characters of the specimen from Hoa Binh Province agreed well with the descriptions of Smith (1943), Taylor (1965), Kim & Oh (2006), Nemes et al. (2013), and Vassilieva et al. (2015). SVL 324 mm, TaL 184 mm. Head distinct from neck; internasal not in contact with loreal; nasal divided; loreal 1/1, small, not touching the eye; preocular 1/1; subocular absent; postoculars 2/2; anterior temporal 1/1; posterior temporals 2/2; supralabials 10/10, fourth to sixth entering orbit; infralabials 9/9; dorsal scale rows 17–17–17, all smooth; ventrals 168 (+1 preventral); cloacal divided; subcaudals 120, divided.

Coloration in preservative: Dorsum brown, with a vertebral series of small black spots, light dorsolateral lines mostly present; head black with a black stripe running from neck to the back of the head; a white stripe along supralabials to the neck; venter yellow, each ventral with a lateral dark spot.

Distribution. In Vietnam, this species has been reported from Dien Bien and Son La provinces in the North southwards to Lam Dong and Dong Nai provinces. This is the first record of S. collaris from Thuong Tien NR as well as from Hoa Binh Province. Elsewhere, the species has been reported from India, Nepal, China, Taiwan, Korea, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Malaysia (Kim & Oh 2006, Nguyen et al. 2009, Nemes et al. 2013, Vassilieva et al. 2015).

**Sinonatrix aequifasciata** (Barbour, 1908)

Asiatic Water Snake / Rắn hoa cân vân đốm (Fig. 2f)

Specimens examined (n = 2). IEBR 4225 (adult male) and IEBR 4226 (adult female) collected by TQN et al. on 17 April 2015, in Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong NR, Lac Son District (20°26.671’N, 105°16.139’E; elevation 250 m asl.).

Description: Morphological characters of the specimens from Hoa Binh Province agreed well with the descriptions of Vogel et al. (2004), Stuart & Heatwole (2008), Hecht et al. (2013), and Le et al. (2015). IEBR 4225: SVL 666.9 mm, TaL 208.3 mm; IEBR 4226: SVL 729.1 mm, TaL 236.1 mm. Head elongated, indistinct from neck; nuchal groove distinct; loreal present; preoculars 1/1 or 2/2; postoculars 3/4 or 3/5; anterior temporals 2/2, posterior temporals 2/3 or 3/3; supralabials 9/9, the fifth entering orbit, the seventh largest; infralabials 10/10; dorsal scale rows 19–19–17, strongly keeled; ventrals 144–153 (+ 2–3 preventrals); cloacal divided; subcaudals 70–74, divided.

Coloration in life: Dorsal surface with 21 black double-bands on body, flanks with dark markings, in X-shape and 10–12 on tail; interspaces with brownish tinge on each band, narrower than the dark bars; venter cream with black markings.

Ecological notes: The specimens were found between 19:00 and 21:30, on branches of trees, about 1.0–1.5 m above the ground, on the banks of a rocky stream. The surrounding habitat was secondary forest composed of medium and small hardwoods, liane and shrub.

Distribution: In Vietnam, this species has been reported from Lao Cai and Ha Giang provinces in the North southwards to Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces. This is the first record of S. aequifasciata from Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong NR as well as from Hoa Binh Province. Elsewhere, the species has been reported from China and Laos (Stuart...

**Family Pareatidae**

*Pareas hamptoni* (Boulenger, 1905)

Hampton’s Slug Snake / Rắn hồ máy ham-ton (Fig. 3a)

Specimens examined (n = 2): IEBR 4227, 4228 (adult males) collected by TQN et al. in October 2014, in Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong NR, Lac Son District (20°02.966’N, 104°53.362’E; elevation 553 m asl.)

Description: Morphological characters of the specimens from Hoa Binh Province agreed well with the descriptions of Smith (1943), Taylor (1965), Ziegler et al. (2007), Nguyen et al. (2011), and Nemes et al. (2013). SVL 363–524 mm, TaL 108–179 mm (n = 2). Body strongly compressed; head distinct from neck; nasal undivided; loreal 1/1, touching the eye; preocular 1/1; postoculares 1/1; subocular 1, long and slender, separating the eye from the labials; anterior temporal 1/1; posterior temporals 2/2; supralabials 7/7, third to fifth below the eye, seventh very long; infralabials 8/8; mental groove absent; dorsal scale rows 15–15–15, all smooth except posterior upper dorsal scales slightly keeled, anterior vertebral scales slightly enlarged; ventrals 199–202 (+ 1 pre-ventral); cloacal undivided; subcaudals 98–100, divided.

Coloration in life: Light Brown dorsally, with dorso-lateral rows of alternating spots, forming a zigzag line, spots absent at the margin of the ventrals.

Ecological notes: The specimens were found between 19:00 and 22:30 on branches of trees, about 1.5–2.0 m above the ground, on forest paths. The surrounding habitat was secondary forest composed of medium and small hardwoods, liane and shrub.

Distribution: In Vietnam, this species has been reported from Lao Cai and Ha Giang provinces in the North southwards to Lam Dong and Dong Nai provinces. This is the first record of *P. hamptoni* from Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong NR as well as from Hoa Binh Province. Elsewhere, the species has been reported from China, Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia (Nguyen et al. 2009).

**Family Viperidae**

*Protobothrops mucrosquamatus* (Cantor, 1839)

Brown spotted pitviper / Rắn lục cườm (Fig. 3b, c)

Specimens examined (n = 2): IEBR 4230 (adult male) collected by C.V. Hoang in Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong NR, Lac Son District (20°25.034’N, 105°23.107’E; elevation 440 m asl.) and IEBR 4231 (adult female) collected by C.T. Pham et al. on 8 June 2016, in Thanh Hoi Commune, Tan Lac District (20°34.865’N, 105°19.731’E; elevation 170 m asl.).

Description: Morphological characters of the specimens from Hoa Binh agreed well with the description of Stuart & Heatwole (2008), Nguyen et al. (2011), Luu et al. (2013), and Nemes et al. (2013). IEBR 4230: SVL 544.0 mm, TaL 129 mm; IEBR 4231: SVL 605.3 mm, TaL 134.0 mm. Hemipenes short and thick. Head triangular, clearly distinct from the neck; nasal undivided; internasals separated from each other by three scales; two small scales between the nasal and the shield bordering the anterior region of the loreal pit; postoculars 2/2, supralabials 8/8 or 11/11, the first supralabial completely separated from the nasal, third supralabial large, in contact with the subocular, fourth and fifth supralabial separated from the subocular by two scales; temporals small; infralabials 13/14, the first pair in contact with each other, the first three pairs in contact with the chin shields; dorsal scale rows 23(25)–23–17(21), rhomboid, strongly keeled throughout but smooth on the first outer row; ventrals 203–214 (+ 2 preventrals); cloacal undivided; subcaudals 88–97, divided.

Coloration in life: Dorsal head brown, paler below; dorsum greyish brown, with a series of large brown, dark-edged spots; a dark brown line from the eye to the angle of the mouth, edged in black; ventral surface brownish with white blotches; dorsal tail light brown, with a series of conspicuous black spots.

Ecological notes: The specimens were found between 19:00 and 22:30, on forest paths. The surrounding habitat was secondary forest composed of medium and small hardwoods, liane and shrub.

Distribution: In Vietnam, this species has been reported from Lao Cai and Ha Giang provinces in the North southwards to Kon Tum and Gia Lai provinces. This is the first record of *P. mucrosquamatus* from Ngoc Son-Ngo Luong NR as well as from Hoa Binh Province. Elsewhere, the species has been reported from India, Bangladesh, China, Taiwan, and Myanmar (Nguyen et al. 2009, Luu et al. 2013, Nemes et al. 2013).

*Trimeresurus gumprechti* David, Vogel, Pauwels & Vidal, 2002

Gumprecht’s green pitviper / Rắn lục gum-p-ret (Fig. 3d)

Specimen examined (n = 1): IEBR 3918 (subadult male) collected by TQN et al. on 12 April 2014, in Hang Kia-Pa Co NR, Mai Chau District (20°44.184’N; 104°53.362’E, elevation 1201 m asl.)

Description: Morphological characters of the specimens from Hoa Binh agreed well with the description of David et al. (2002). SVL 441.75 mm, TaL 100 mm. Hemipenes short and thick with spines. Head triangular, clearly distinct from the neck; rostral visible from above, triangular; nasal undivided; internasals separated from each other by a scale; two small scales between the nasal and the shield bordering the anterior region of the loreal pit; postoculars 2/2, supralabials 10/10, the first separated from the
nasal, third large, in contact with subocular, fourth and fifth separated from subocular by a small scale; temporals small; infralabials 13/12, the first pair in contact with each other, the first three pairs in contact with the chin shields; dorsal scale rows 23–21–15, rhomboid, strongly keeled throughout but smooth on the outermost row; ventrals 160 (+ 4 preventrals); cloacal undivided; subcaudals 70, divided.

Coloration in life: Dorsal and ventral surface green with a white ventrolateral stripe, edged in red below; lateral head with a white postocular streak, edged in red below; tail green with upper part of posterior half rusty red; eyes red.

Ecological notes: The specimen was found at 21:00 on tree branches near a small stream, approximately 0.2 m above the ground. The surrounding habitat was secondary forest composed of medium and small hardwoods, liane and shrub. A tree frog (Kurixalus sp.) and a water skink (Tropidophorus sp.) were found in the stomach of this specimen.

Distribution. In Vietnam, this species has been reported from Lai Chau and Lao Cai provinces (Nguyen et al. 2009). This is the first record of T. gumprechti for Hang Kia-Pa Co NR as well as for Hoa Binh Province. Elsewhere, the species has been reported from China, Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand (David et al. 2004, Nguyen et al. 2009).

DISCUSSION
Our new records of nine snake species bring the total number of snake species in Hoa Binh Province to 43 (Table 1). The most diverse family is Colubridae with 27 recorded species, followed by Elapidae (4 species) and Viperidae (4 species). The snake fauna of Hoa Binh

Fig. 3. a) Pareas hamptoni (IEBR 4227), b) Protobothrops mucrosquamatus (male) (IEBR 4230) and c) female (IEBR 4231), and d) Trimeresurus gumprechti (IEBR 3918) from Hoa Binh Province, Vietnam.

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<td>Xenochrophis flavipunctatus (Hallowell, 1860)</td>
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<td>Trimeresurus gumprechti David, Vogel, Pauwels &amp; Vidal, 2002*</td>
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<td>Trimeresurus stejnegeri Schmidt, 1925</td>
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Province also contains several species of conservation concern. Three species are listed in the IUCN Red List
New records of snakes from Hoa Binh Province

Bonn zoological Bulletin 67 (1): 15–24 ©ZFMK

E. mandarinus

N. fasciatus

P. mucosa

N. atra

E. moellendorffi

Ophiophagus hannah


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Nembriniidae of the biosphere Reserve Cat Ba Archipelago, Hai Phong, Vietnam. Bonner zoologische Monographien 57; 99–115


