

Ahaetulla nasutus feeding on *Uropeltis ellioti*

It was 20 August 2004 at 12 noon; I was on a field trip to Sharavathi River basin at Muppene nature camp (74°47'71" E; 14°06'92" N; 571 m amsl) saw a Vine snake (*Ahaetulla nasutus*) dangling from a tree having a shield-tail snake in its mouth. Shield tail was more than 50% inside the vine snake, at the time when I saw it. It took around 10 more minutes to swallow the remaining portion. I took quite a few pictures and later when I showed them to Mr. M.S. Chaitra of Wildlife Institute of India and Mr. Aneesh Andharia of Wildlife Conservation Society, they confirmed the Shield tail to be *Uropeltis ellioti*. *Uropeltis ellioti* (Elliot's Shield tail) is an endemic snake of the Western Ghats with lower risk near threatened IUCN status. *Ahaetulla nasutus* (Common vine snake) is a non-endemic with lower risk near threatened category. This may be the first report of Vine snake feeding on shield tail.



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Photographs and Text

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