



BALI SNAKE TOUR

With Bali Reptile Rescue
November 2019



Production: Freddy Hordies

Bali West Indonesia

31/10 >> 8/11/2019

One-week Snake-tour in West-Bali with Bali Reptile Rescue

With my friend Patrick and his wife Myriam, we are ready for a full week herping on snakes with the crew of Bali Reptile Rescue: Shinta, Agus, Ray, Gung Adi, Nurani, Wayan Cobra and driver Marta.

I had this great experience with Shinta and Agus in 2016 and 2018, and here we go again!

This time especially for finding nests of King Cobra!

It's very easy to book a tour with Bali Rescue, and they are very well organized.

Balireptilerescue@yahoo.com

<http://breptile-rescue.blogspot.com/>



Information:

- Most of the pictures are made by Patrick. Some are retrieved from the Internet when ours are not usable or just missing!
- At the end of the report, p. 30, you can find the list with the amphibians and reptiles we have seen.

Program:

31/10: Brussels – Istanbul

01/11: Istanbul – Denpasar

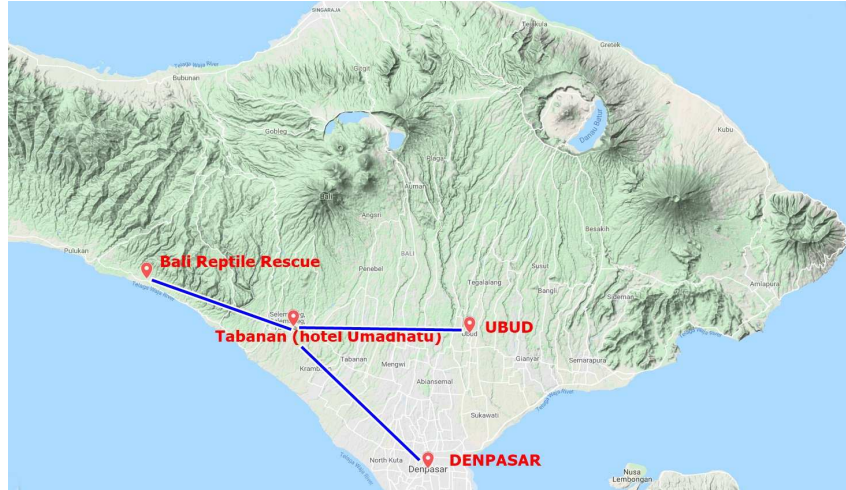
02/11 to 07/11: Hotel Umadhatu Resorts in Tabanan

07/11: Denpasar – Istanbul

08/11: Istanbul – Brussels

Patrick and Myriam stayed another week in Sanur and returned on 14/11.

Map:



The different actors:



Thursday 31/10

My friend Walter comes to pick me up in Kontich at 9.30 a.m..

Appointment with Patrick and Myriam in Zaventem around noon.

At 15.35 a.m., take off towards Istanbul, 2.142 km far. After a little less than 5 hours of flying we arrive. Now it is four hours waiting for the next flight, destination Bali.

Friday 1/11

Our B787-9, a brand-new aircraft, departs at 02.00 a.m. and lands in Denpasar at 7.10 p.m., local time. That is 9 hours of flying, for 10,623 km.

Shinta, Nurani and driver Marta come to pick us up, with more than an hour delay. The traffic is incredibly busy!

It is just a bit difficult to get everything and everyone in the car. Nurani and Shinta must sit on each other's lap for three hours And there are already 3 babies Spitting cobras in the car that were saved today by Bali Reptile Rescue and that they have kept for us.

Saturday 2/11

Around 1 a.m. we arrive in Umadhatu Resorts, a clean and simple hotel with scattered houses.



Wake-up at 7 a.m., that means a short night after such a long trip; we were 35 hours 'on the road'.

We have breakfast at 8 a.m. A big choice: eggs, Nasi Goreng, Bami Goreng, vegetables, everything fresh prepared!

It is very hot here, 32 degrees, already!

We leave for our first search. Our goal: cobra nest....!

We soon find our first snake! An Oriental Wolf Snake (*Lycodon capucinus*).

Lycodon capucinus, also known as the Oriental Wolf Snake, is a species of colubrid snake.

Named after their enlarged front teeth, which gives them a muzzled appearance like canines, it also makes the snout somewhat more squarish than other snakes.

The snout is duck-bill-shaped for digging in soft or sandy ground. The enlarged front teeth are not used to inject venom.

Like many other colubrids, they possess true fangs near the rear of their mouths, and they will use these to inject venom into their prey. However, this species is relatively benign to humans. Lycodon capucinus feeds mainly on small lizards such as geckos and they are also among the top predators of skinks which makes it common to humans due to the abundance of prey near and in homes.



Fred is visited by a nice little spider, white, blue and green: the Grainy Cosmophasis (Cosmophasis micarioides).

A common, abundant and extremely variable species.

The name refers to the sparkling, "micaceous" scales on the surface of the body, reflecting different colors when viewed from different angles.



They can feature combinations of orange, black, red or blue-green, usually with metallic bands across the cephalothorax.

A little later, in a tree, our first gecko, the Tokay Gecko (*Gekko gecko*). We will see this species several times.

This species occurs in northeast India, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh, throughout Southeast Asia, including the Philippines and Indonesia, and to western New Guinea in Melanesia. Its native habitat is rainforest, where it lives on trees and cliffs, and it also frequently adapts to rural human habitations, roaming walls and ceilings at night in search of insect prey.

The Tokay is a large gecko, reaching up to 30 cm in length. It is cylindrical but somewhat flattened in body shape. The eyes have vertical pupils.

The skin is soft to the touch and is generally gray with red speckles, but the animal can change the color of its skin to blend into the environment.

The male is territorial and aggressive, attacking other males as well as other intruders.

The Tokay feeds on insects and small vertebrates. It has strong jaws with which it bites through the exoskeletons of rainforest insects.

It is a strong climber with foot pads that can support the entire weight of the body on a vertical surface for a long period of time.

Tokay geckos are culturally significant in many East Asian countries. Regional folklore has attributed supernatural powers to the gecko. In Southeast Asia it is a symbol of good luck and fertility.



This observation is followed by a few Asian Water Monitors (*Varanus salvator*) in and along a narrow river.

The Asian Water Monitor (Varanus salvator), also called Common Water Monitor, is a large varanid lizard native to South and Southeast Asia. It is one of the most common monitor lizards in Asia.



They are the world's second-heaviest lizard, after the Komodo Dragon.

Their bodies are muscular, with long, powerful, laterally compressed tails.

Water monitors defend themselves using their tails, claws, and jaws. They are excellent swimmers,

using the raised fin on their tails to steer through water.

They are carnivores and consume a wide range of prey. They are known to eat fish, frogs, rodents, birds, crabs, and snakes. When hunted by predators, such as the King Cobra, they will climb trees using their powerful legs and claws. If this evasion is not enough to escape danger, they have also been known to jump from trees into streams for safety.

The possibility of venom in the genus *Varanus* is widely debated. Previously, venom was thought to be unique to *Serpentes* (snakes) and *Heloderma* (venomous lizards).

The aftereffects of a *Varanus* bite were thought to be due to oral bacteria alone, but recent studies have shown venom glands are likely to be present in the mouths of several, if not all, of the species.

The Common Sun Skink (*Eutropis multifasciata*) is also present, looking for food among the fallen leaves of bamboo.

Eutropis multifasciata is carnivorous and its diet consists of mainly invertebrates. They feed on insects like crickets, grasshoppers, worms, beetles, spiders, caterpillars and even smaller reptiles and small frogs. They seem to be attracted to the movement of the prey, capturing and shaking the prey before swallowing it.



Next is a nice *Bronchocela jubata*.

Bronchocela jubata, commonly known as the Maned Forest Lizard, is a species of agamid lizard found mainly in Indonesia.

Bronchocela jubata is 550 mm in total length, with a long hanging tail making up four fifths of its total length.



It has a jagged crest on its neck which more closely resemble hairs, as opposed to the crest of its close relative, *Bronchocela cristatella*, which more closely resembles the points on a crown.

The crest consists of elongated scales, although it is flabby like skin.

Bronchocela jubata is generally to be found in low bushes or hidden in dense trees. It can frequently be seen having fallen from the bushes or trees while chasing its prey, although it will quickly run back into the security of the nearest bush or tree. The lizard preys on butterflies, moths, dragonflies, flies and

other small insects.

To catch its prey, *Bronchocela jubata* will generally wait in silence at the top of a tree.

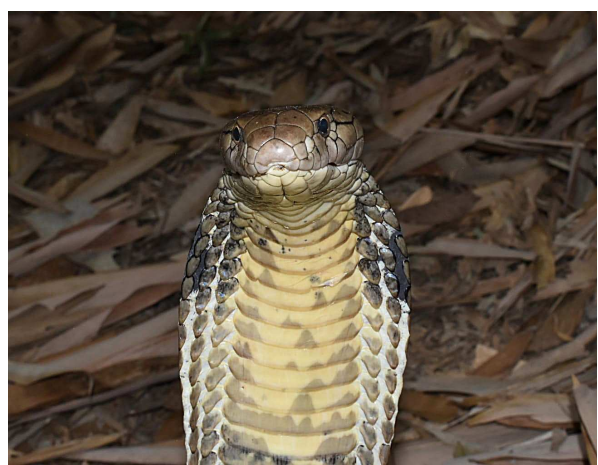
Water and bamboo, the place to be for the main target of this trip, the King Cobra.

At 12.50 a.m., after walking around this biotope for barely 2 hours, the time has come! Our guides find a beautiful nest of cobra, an elevation of bamboo leaves at the foot of a large bamboo plant.

And in the nest the mama cobra! With a lot of effort, we can see the head of the snake between the leaf litter. But when there is too much movement, it emerges with head and chest out of the nest, in a real cobra position! Magnificent! Patrick has his first King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*)!



The King Cobra (Ophiophagus hannah) is a venomous snake species in the family Elapidae, endemic to forests from India through Southeast Asia. It is the longest venomous snake in the world. Adult King Cobras are 3.18 to 4 m long. The longest known individual measured 5.85 m. It preys



mainly on other snakes and occasionally on some other vertebrates, such as lizards. It is a highly venomous and dangerous snake when agitated or provoked that has a fearsome reputation in its range, although it is typically shy and avoids confrontation with humans when possible.

It is a prominent symbol in the mythology and folk traditions.

The King Cobra is not considered aggressive. It usually slinks off when disturbed but is known to aggressively defend incubating eggs and attack intruders rapidly.

When alarmed, it raises the front part of its body, extends the hood, shows the fangs and hisses loudly. When raising its body, the King Cobra can still move forward to strike with a long distance, and people may misjudge the safe zone. It can deliver multiple bites in a single attack.

It is the only snake that builds a nest using dry leave litter.

Most nests are located at the base of trees, are up to 55 cm high in the center and 140 cm wide at the base. They consist of several layers and have mostly one chamber; into which the female lays eggs.

In Southeast Asia, the King Cobra is threatened foremost by habitat destruction owing to deforestation and expansion of agricultural land.

It is protected in China and Vietnam. In India, it is placed under Schedule II of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Killing a King Cobra is sentenced with imprisonment of up to six years.

The snake is gently caught, is about 3 meters long, and the entire nest with leaves and eggs is carefully removed. Mama Cobra will be released elsewhere, far from the village, and the eggs will be hatched by Shinta and the hatchlings also released later.

At 2.30 p.m. it's time for lunch.

In the restaurant we see our 2nd species of gecko, the Flat-tailed House Gecko (*Hemidactylus platyurus*).

One of the commonest house geckos in Southeast Asia. It is identified by the flat tail, fringed with loose skin. Color and markings can vary from plain grey, to an attractive pattern of dark brown stripes or diamonds along the spine.

Active by day and night, in urban areas it feeds on small insects attracted to artificial lighting. It is highly adaptable and also occurs in forested and agricultural areas. Its call is a muted 'click-click-click'.



In the back garden of our room we start a photo session of the 3 Spitting Cobra babies and of the *Bungarus fasciatus* that the crew of Bali Reptile Rescue have previously captured and brought to us, while later releasing them in a safe place.

Baby Javan Spitting Cobra.



The Javan Spitting Cobra (Naja sputatrix) is also called the Indonesian Cobra.

The average length of this species of cobra is approximately 1.3 m.

Naja sputatrix is very defensive and readily spits out venom when it feels threatened. It is a terrestrial snake that's nocturnal in nature.

It preys predominantly on small mammals such as small rats and mice, but it will also feed on frogs, other snakes and lizards.

Mating occurs during the dry season. Females often lay eggs at the end of the dry season in November or the very beginning of the wet season.

As many as 13 to 19 eggs may be laid in a clutch.

Bungarus fasciatus

The Banded Krait is easily identified by its alternate black and yellow crossbands, its triangular body cross section, and the marked vertebral ridge consisting of enlarged vertebral shields along its body.

Our specimen here is not banded, but only greyish brown with a white dorsal line on the vertebral ridge, without any crossbands! Very unusual color morph. Agus already saw different B. fasciatus with special color morphs here in Bali. It's strange that there is no document to be found that talks about that!



The Banded Krait is a medium to large sized snake they can grow up to 180cm. Unique tail rounded off into a nub at the end and can appear like a small head.

Active at night and mainly hunts other snakes. Generally docile when approached they are not quick to bite but will do so if disturbed or handled especially during their active period at night.

Normally slow and deliberate in their movement they are capable of moving quickly when fleeing. Attack behavior is erratic with wild head movements and lunging.

Will bite from any direction and does not normally display characteristic 'S' shape before striking. Will normally hide its head under its body and leave its tail exposed where the round end appears like a small head. Predators will bite the tail leaving them exposed to a bite from the concealed head.

At 5 p.m. we leave for Denpasar where we will visit specific locations for Sea Krait and Catsnake, the same places that I visited together with Agus in 2016, with success. Hopefully we will find what we are looking for this time too.

We arrive at 7 p.m. We are at the coast, where the sea snakes reside between the large boulders that serve as a dyke.

While we are still busy removing our headlights and photo material from the trunk, Gung Adi already has a hit. Exactly one minute after our arrival we had a catch: Sea Krait, the 2nd new species for Patrick!

Sea Krait

The Yellow-lipped Sea Krait (Laticauda colubrina), also known as the Banded Sea Krait or Colubrine Sea Krait, is a species of venomous sea snake found in tropical Indo-Pacific oceanic waters.

The snake has distinctive black stripes and a yellow snout, with a paddle-like tail for use in swimming.



Banded sea kraits primarily feed on varieties of eels, but also eat small fish. Males and females exhibit sexual dimorphism in hunting behavior, as adult females, which are significantly larger than males, prefer to hunt in deeper water for larger conger eels, while adult males hunt in shallower water for smaller moray eels. In addition, females hunt for only one prey item per foraging bout, while males often hunt for multiple items. After hunting, the Banded Sea Kraits return to land in order to digest their prey. Some varieties of eels, which are a primary food source for Banded Sea Kraits, may have coevolved resistance to Banded Sea Krait venom. When a male detects a female, it chases the female and begins courtship. Females are larger and slower than males, and many males will escort and intertwine around a single female. The males then align their bodies with the female and rhythmically contract; the resulting mass of snakes can remain nearly motionless for several days. After courtship, the snakes copulate for about an average of two hours.

After an extensive photo session, we proceed to the next search location, for the next species.



We walk on a concrete dam between the rice fields. A quiet walk, but it won't take long before Patrick picks a snake from a tree: a Mangrove Snake (*Boiga dendrophila*), black above, with white transverse bands.



A little further, again prize! This time the beautiful yellow-black variant! This color variant is more general than the black and white, but a much nicer color!

Boiga dendrophila, commonly called the mangrove snake or the gold-ringed cat snake, is a species of rear-fanged snake in the family Colubridae. The species is endemic to southeast Asia. It is one of the biggest cat snake species, averaging 1.8–2.4 m in length.



It is considered mildly venomous. Although moderate envenomation's resulting in intense swelling have been reported, there has never been a confirmed fatality.

Mostly nocturnal, the Mangrove Snake is potentially aggressive. Handling, of course, should involve safety precautions for the handler, due to the snake's nervous nature and the fact that a bite can cause pain and injury.

B. dendrophila feeds on reptiles, birds, and small mammals.

Fifteen minutes later, while we are photographing this specimen, it starts to rain softly. The people here are overjoyed: the first rain in 8 months! They hope that this is the start of a small rainy season.

And also a third snake, the Painted Bronzeback. It's sleeping on a slender branch, 2 meters from the ground.

The Painted Bronzeback (Dendrelaphis pictus) is a widespread and adaptable species occurring in a broad range of habitats. In its native habitat it is probably a forest edge species, as it is rarely encountered in dense forest.



It has adapted to a broad range of disturbed and man-made habitats including secondary scrub, parks and gardens.

It is fully diurnal - by day it actively searches for its food prey, which comprises mainly lizards and frogs., but by night it rests on narrow tree branches a few meters above the ground.

We caught 3 snakes in less than 30 minutes. "Cost effective" location!

Here we also release the Bungarus fasciatus, the special one without crossbands.

The traffic is always busy, no matter what hour.

We take more than an hour and a half for 38 km!

It is 1 a.m. when we see our rooms again ...

Sunday 3/11

It has rained all night! The people are very happy!

Breakfast at 07.30 a.m. and departure at 10.00 a.m..

It is warm, very humid, cloudy but no rain.

We stop at a certain place and get ready to start a search.

Very quickly we observe a beautiful juvenile Water Monitor, nicely banded with yellow.



But then a call comes in: the assistance of Bali Reptile Rescue is requested: yesterday, in a large private domain, a man saw a King Cobra moving away from its nest.

We drive there immediately. A very beautiful and large house, in Balinese style, with an immense piece of land, sloping towards a river.

We are accompanied by a man who is supposed to know where the snake was seen, but he is not very sure. After a long search we give up. Mission failed.

Shinta sees a *Draco volans* and Patrick catches a nice Water monitor, not too big, just good for handling it.

Draco volans, the Common Flying Dragon, is a species of lizard endemic to Southeast Asia. Like other members of genus Draco, this species has the ability to glide using winglike lateral extensions of skin called patagia.



This species is diurnal, and are commonly seen running along branches, displaying, and gliding. In addition, the species is exclusively arboreal.

It feeds mainly on ants, and possibly other insects. The wings of Draco volans are supported by its ribs, which form the skeleton of its wings. However, its elongated ribs are superadded to aid forming its wings, and not to assisting respiration.

This species is considered a passive glider, or parachutist.

We change our program and go to a "cave" where bats and pythons reside.

The cave is named Luhur Srijong Cave.

When we arrive, Gung Adi tells us that we are not allowed inside because this is a sacred cave.

The side walls and ceiling are covered with thousands of fruit bats *Cynopterus brachyotis*.

The Lesser short-nosed fruit bat (Cynopterus brachyotis) is a small bat that lives in South and Southeast Asia and Indonesia.

Lesser short-nosed fruit bats are frugivorous. They prefer aromatic fruit, especially mangoes. The bats feed mainly on small fruits by sucking out the juices and soft pulp. They also eat nectar and pollen. Both sexes take care of the young. Males play an active role in lactation and feeding the young. They have mammary glands that are the same size as those of the female and exceed 8% of their overall body mass.



In the center of the picture, a python hanging on the wall, between thousands of bats.

At 3 different places we see a python stuck to the wall of the cave, waiting for a bat to fly by. While Fred is filming one of the pythons, it catches a bat and takes it in a stranglehold! On the videoclip, we see in fact TWO pythons fighting for a bat!!!

The Reticulated Python (Malayopython reticulatus) is a snake native to South and Southeast Asia. It is one of the world's longest snakes. It has a length range of 1.5 to 6.5 m and a weight range of 1 to 75 kg. It is among the three heaviest snakes.

It is an excellent swimmer, has been reported far out at sea and has colonized many small islands within its range. Like all pythons, it is a nonvenomous constrictor.



As with all pythons, the Reticulated Python is an ambush hunter, usually waiting until prey wanders within strike range before seizing it in its coils and killing by constriction. Its natural diet includes mammals and occasionally birds.

This species is among the few snakes that prey on humans. Attacks on humans are not common, but pythons have been responsible for several reported human fatalities, in both the wild and captivity.

Tonight we head to Ubud, one of the new search sites that Agus and C ° have discovered. The third snake of Patrick's wish list would appear here, namely the White-lipped Island Pit Viper. At 6 p.m. we get out of the car to start the herping, and at 6.20 p.m. Patrick again has success! *Trimeresurus insularis*!

It is a venomous pit viper found in Indonesia and East Timor. Common names include White-lipped Island Pit Viper and Lesser Sunda Pit Viper.



Its meals consist of birds, small frogs, and small mammals. This snake doesn't strike and release its prey; like many arboreal snakes, it strikes and holds on to the prey item until it dies.



Results of bites from this species range from mild envenoming to death. The venom of the pit viper contains procoagulant properties. There have been numerous reported bites with few fatalities.

And then different species follow up quickly!

After three hours of active searching, the list of our observations looks like this:

Keeled Slug-eating Snake (*Pareas carinata*).

Snakes of the genus Pareas are non-venomous, mainly nocturnal and arboreal. It has rustic wood color to blend into its habitat. Camouflage is the game.



Its diet consists on slugs and snails. Slug-eating snakes have more teeth on the right mandible than on the left for functional specialization in feeding on the dextral majority of land snails.

Python reticulatus

Two Dendrelaphis pictus

Ptyas korros, two at barely 20 m distance from each other.

Ptyas korros, commonly known as the Chinese Rat Snake or Indo-Chinese Rat Snake, is a species of colubrid snake endemic to Southeast Asia. It is a large snake; total length up to 200 cm.

This semi-arboreal, cathemeral (diurnal or nocturnal) snake inhabits the ground or trees in forests and farmland and may appear near human residences.



It preys on frogs, lizards, birds, eggs, and small mammals. Females produce 8-12 eggs per clutch in May and June; hatchlings measure about 26cm in total length.

This snake may be fairly nervous when captured and may whip about and thrash its body violently in an attempt to escape from its captor.

Asian Vine Snake (*Ahaethulla prasina*)

Ahaethulla prasina is a species of snake in the family Colubridae native to southern Asia.

Adults may attain 1.8 m in total length, with a tail 0.6 m long.

Its appearance is very much like those of South American vine snakes. It is a rear-fanged species and is mildly venomous but is not considered a threat to humans.

The Asian Vine Snake feeds on small reptiles and amphibians, particularly lizards and tree frogs.



Tokay Gecko, already our second one.

Bronchocela jubata, sleeping on a small twig, our second one too.

Asian Common Toad (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*).

Duttaphrynus melanostictus is commonly called Asian Common Toad, Asian Black-spined Toad and Javanese Toad. It is probably a complex of more than one true toad species that is widely distributed in South and Southeast Asia.

The species grows to about 20 cm long. Asian Common Toads breed during the monsoon, and their tadpoles are black. Young toads may be seen in large numbers after monsoon rains finish.

They breed in still and slow-flowing rivers and temporary and permanent ponds and pools. Adults are terrestrial and may be found under ground cover

such as rocks, leaf litter and logs, and are also associated with human habitations.

D. melanostictus was introduced to Bali in 1958. The absence of resistance to toad toxins in native snake and varanid predators means that these species could suffer severe declines from the inadvertent spread of the Asian Common Toad via human traffic.



Crab-eating Frog (*Fejervarya cancrivora*).

F. cancrivora is widely distributed in southeastern Asia. In Bali, *F. cancrivora* is found in lowland rainforests, lower montane forests, monsoon forests, forest edges, mangroves, other brackish waterways, and agricultural areas.



This frog is the only living amphibian species that can inhabit saline waters constantly. This species can adapt to environments of widely different salinity.

It can adapt from freshwater pools to full-strength sea water, in only a few hours.

The diet of frogs near brackish water is predominantly crustacean, including crabs. On the other hand, the diet of frogs near fresh water is comprised mainly of insects and some small vertebrates as frogs.

As much as 75% of Indonesia's exported frog legs for food consumption consists of *F. cancrivora*. Frogs are captured mostly in Java.

At a certain distance, we hear the White-lipped Tree Frog (*Polypedates leucomystax*).

Polypedates leucomystax is a species in the shrub frog family *Rhacophoridae*. It is known under numerous common names, including Common Tree Frog and Striped Tree Frog. In its native range, it is also called "White-lipped Tree Frog".

In the damp areas of the propagation, these frogs are present all year round. In drier environments, the period usually restricts to the beginning of the rainy season.

The mating takes place at the margins of shallow pools, where the males first arrive and call the females with a distinctive loud, duck-like sound.

The female places between 100 and 400 eggs in a protective foam nest that is attached to vegetation or other objects above the water surface. The eggs hatch after 3 to 4 days.

The tadpoles develop inside the foam nest and then fall into the water. They develop into adult frogs in about 7 weeks.



In this beautiful biotope we release quite a few critters:



the 3 babies Spitting cobra when we finally found a suitable place, a centipede, *Ethmostigmus rubripes*, which was caught for us by one of our friends.

It feeds on insects, snails, worms and even Arachnids.

The centipede has modified claws called forcipules which curve around its head and can deliver venom into its prey. The venom is toxic to both mammals and insects, but does not appear to be strong enough to kill large animals quickly.

We release a Vine snake that was taken from a garden, and a Dog-toothed Cat Snake (*Boiga cynodon*) that was also specially kept for us. *Boiga cynodon* is a nocturnal species of rear-fanged colubrid snake endemic to Asia. It is a large snake, reaching more than 2 m in total length. The front teeth of the upper jaw and the lower jaw are strongly enlarged. The body is slender and laterally compressed. Dorsally it is tannish with reddish-brown or dark brown crossbands. There is a dark streak behind the eye on each side of the head.



It feeds mainly upon small birds and bird eggs but may also take lizards and small mammals. Though they rarely bite – even when physically attacked – they can inject venom. They are rear-fanged colubrids and a prolonged bite could cause swelling and pain at the bite site.

Our guys don't find a suitable restaurant in Ubud itself, so we leave the city.

We stop in a food place somewhere along the track, but it is not really tasty and the food is not warm.

A beautiful day in terms of observations: 2 species of amphibians, 5 lizards and 7 different snakes! In comparison to nearby islands, such as Borneo and Sulawesi, Bali has relatively few amphibian species. This is mainly due to the limited amount and variety of water available. Although good rain falls during the hotter months, there is little flat land where water can accumulate, and most of the streams are fast and shallow.

Monday 4/11

After breakfast we leave for the place that we were unable to investigate yesterday, because of the Rescue call. It is very hot and completely dry: the people are disappointed because the 'first rain' was only for a very short time.

We find a nest of King Cobra under construction, but no snake.

After 4 hours of walking one of the men sees a python, high in a tree. With the help of a long bamboo stick, they manage to catch the python. Very nice snake, not big but beautiful in color.

During the actions to take photos, it bites one of Fred's fingers. A few teeth remain stuck in the skin, but Gung Adi and Marta carefully remove them and disinfect the wounds. One tooth stays in place and only comes out 5 days later, after the necessary treatment.



We stop for a moment at the foot of a temple and food is bought at a “mobile-bicycle” restaurant...



We have dinner at our hotel.

Lots of choice and very tasty!

Various geckos hunt for mosquitoes, beetles and moths against the wall of the kitchen. They are Tokays and Flat-tailed House Geckos (*Hemidactylus platyurus*).

The evening walk starts at 8.30 p.m., opposite the house where Marta lives.

After just 10 minutes we already catch a 2 m long python.

And in the next 20 minutes 2 Chinese Rat snakes and 3 Painted Bronzebacks.

Half an hour later we start the last search of the day. No new varieties here either, but a Vine snake and again 3 Painted Bronzebacks. These are clearly in the majority!

Near the car, in an irrigation channel, we observe a Paddy Field Frog (*Fejervarya limnocharis*).

Fejervarya limnocharis is a species of frog found in South East Asia and parts of Indochina. It is known under many common names, including Asian Grass Frog and Rice Field Frog.

Molecular studies of the species complex suggest that there may be multiple species involved.

Fejervarya limnocharis is commonly sold as food in Southeast Asia, including Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia. In Cambodia, it is frequently collected for human consumption.



We are back at the hotel before midnight, that's early isn't it?

Tuesday 5/11

Breakfast at 08.3 a.m. It will be very hot and dry again today!

Shinta receives a message stating that in a village yesterday, a cobra was beaten with sticks. He is hurt but could escape. We immediately drive to that location, and after 30 minutes of searching, Ray finds the hurt King. We will treat him tomorrow at the Base Camp.

Patrick, Gung Adi and Ray can catch a glimpse of a too fast Spitting Cobra. Gone!

After a break at a small shop, where we enjoy an ice cream, we drive to the next location.

Along the way we see an 'old' man in bare torso, staggering in the street. That doesn't look good. Marta stops immediately and is the first to help the man. He is conscious but does not know (anymore) where he lives. We help him with what we can: little cookies, soda, cola. When more people come to help and someone informs the emergency services, we continue our way.

The next hike is one of the toughest, certainly when a steep bank has to be overcome. Gung Adi pushes and Patrick pulls Myriam up, which results in a beautiful video clip ...

At the same place, Shinta loses her snake hook in the water. Gung Adi and Ray search the bottom of the river with success!



Now we must cross the river again. The only shortcut is via the 'bamboo-bridge'. But only Gung Adi dares to do it! Halfway, we hear a “crack!” and Gung Adi must stop his attempt.



A nice new skink high in a tree is the only observation of this trip. Too far and in the shade, which does not allow us to put a name on it.

We are back early in our hotel and even have time to enjoy the nice swimming pool. As well as the impressive slide!



Appointment to eat at 6 p.m. It takes a long time before our orders appear ... Marta is going to help in the kitchen! Cool fellow!

Our first search of the evening starts at 8 p.m.

Almost immediately, high in a tree, above the water, we see a "Blue belly Pit Viper"! One of the species on our list!

It is a *Trimeresurus insularis*, as we have already seen one on Sunday. But this one has a beautiful blue belly. This color variation is known but is rarely observed.

It is carefully removed from the tree, with the help of the necessary accessories ...



Also 2 Painted Bronzebacks. The second one is doing this:



The 2nd location that we visit finally brings in new varieties: a Checkered Keelback and a Malayan Krait !!!

When catching the latter, we first think of a 'normal' Wolf Snake,... but no! The *Bungarus candidus*! *Bungarus candidus*, commonly known as the Malayan Krait or Blue Krait, is a highly venomous species of snake. The Krait is a member of the elapid family. It has caused an untreated mortality rate of 60–70% on humans.



This species can be easily confused with juvenile Lycodon (Wolf Snake).

On September 11, 2001, Dr. Joe Slowinski, an expert on Asian venomous snakes and the phylogeny of snakes, was bitten by a (banded) Bungarus sp. in a remote region and died 28 hours later from the consequences. The bite took place early in the morning after an assistant had given him a bag with a snake and told him that the captured animal was probably a (non-toxic) Lycodon.

Slowinski put his hand into the pocket without looking and was bitten into a finger by the 30 cm long snake; it held onto the finger for ten seconds.

An hour after the bite, the muscles of Slowinski's hand began to tingle and in the course of the morning the characteristic neurotoxic symptoms occurred: falling eyelids, jerky breathing, talking with a "thick tongue" and having to write down announcements.

The paralysis spread over his body and five hours after the bite he was unable to breathe and was kept alive by continuous mouth-to-mouth breathing by the members of his team. Due to the bad weather a rescue helicopter could not be deployed.

The breathing equipment from a local hospital, that was being dragged to the camp by soldiers, turned out not to work. After midnight, Slowinski was almost completely paralyzed and could only give signals with his big toe. In the course of the following morning, his heart stopped beating.

The Checkered Keelback (Fowlea or *Xenochrophis piscator*), also known commonly as the Asiatic Water Snake, is a common species of nonvenomous snake in the family Colubridae. The species is endemic to Asia.

The preferred habitat is in or near freshwater lakes or rivers. It feeds mainly on small fish and water frogs.

This Keelback is oviparous. Clutch size is usually 30-70 eggs, but may be as few as 4 or as many as 100. Egg size is also variable. The female guards the eggs until they hatch.



Furthermore, again 4 Painted Bronzebacks, which brings their number to 13 in 5 days!

After various sightings of Cricket Frogs, Cicadas and Praying Mantis we return to the car.

On the way to the hotel, we see a few men going for a fight on a small courtyard. Marta stops at a police station and immediately reports the incident. A real social boy. Hats off!

Wednesday 6/11

We have received a tip from a village where someone has found a King Cobra nest and 'brought it to safety', but Mama King is gone.

We arrive at a large courtyard surrounded by relatively large buildings. A few families live together here.

It is very far to the location of the cobra. That's why we all crawl on mopeds and descend 3 km in the direction of the river. And then there is a tough descent of about one kilometer, to the right location. The front runners of the group see the cobra flee into the bamboo.

A few thick bamboo stems are cut away to get a better view of the center of the bamboo and to disturb the well-hidden King with long sticks. After a long time, we will succeed. Suddenly the big cobra shoots out of the bamboo and dives towards the river. Patrick just has time to grab the snake by its tail! Got you!

Because it is said that 2 cobras were seen here yesterday, the locals decide to set the bamboo on fire. Not a pretty picture. And useless nothing else happens. But while we are all waiting there, we are introduced to Snakefruit, Salak,

For the uninitiated, this fleshy, spongy morsel offers a perfumed cocktail of bright flavors, with hints of pineapple, citrus, honey and possibly even soap.



In Indonesia, salaks are as common as apples or oranges in the U.S. Also called snakefruit, this strawberry-sized, fig-shaped fruit comes encased in vivid, nutty-brown scales, not unlike that of a cobra or python. In Bali, salak bali delivers a crunchy, starchy experience that conjures associations with watery pineapple and lemon.

Then follows the steep climb back up, the nice ride with the motorbike back to the house, where we are welcomed with coffee and tasty mangoes. Two children are playing with a pet-chicken in front of a beautiful door. And Myriam is in good company.



From here we go to Bali Reptile Rescue, to give all caught animals a better stay in anticipation of the release and to care for the injured King.

A number of worms are removed from the infected mouth of the snake and the damaged scales around the eye are also treated and disinfected.

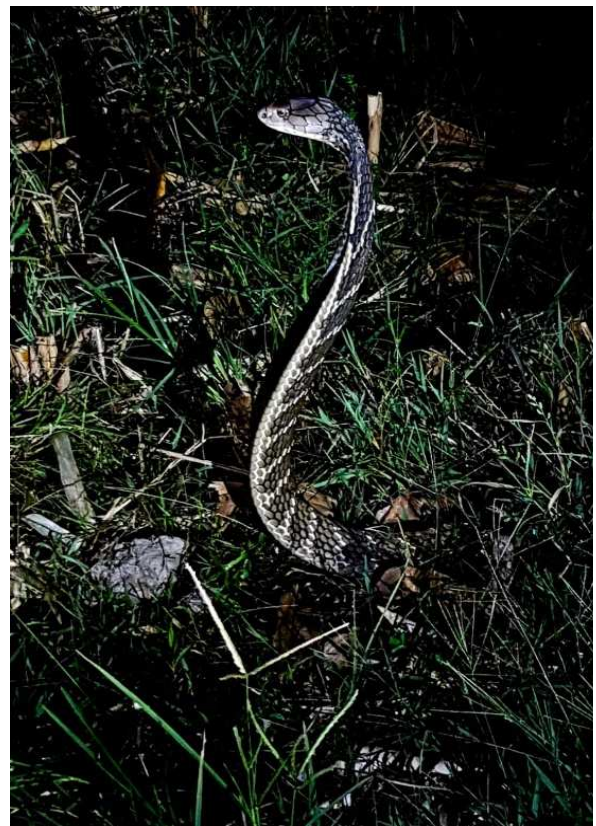


At 7 p.m. we are in the restaurant of our hotel.

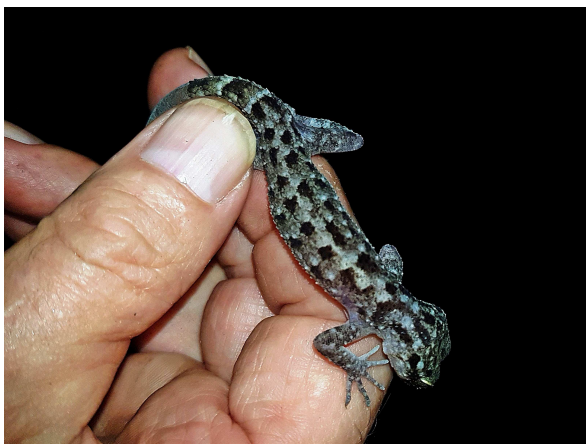
Against the great wall, again a few geckos that feed on small insects.

Suddenly a large Tokay emerges from behind a lamp, sneaks to a smaller gecko and ... snap! A real kill! Quite spectacular to see. And luckily the Fred was filming ...

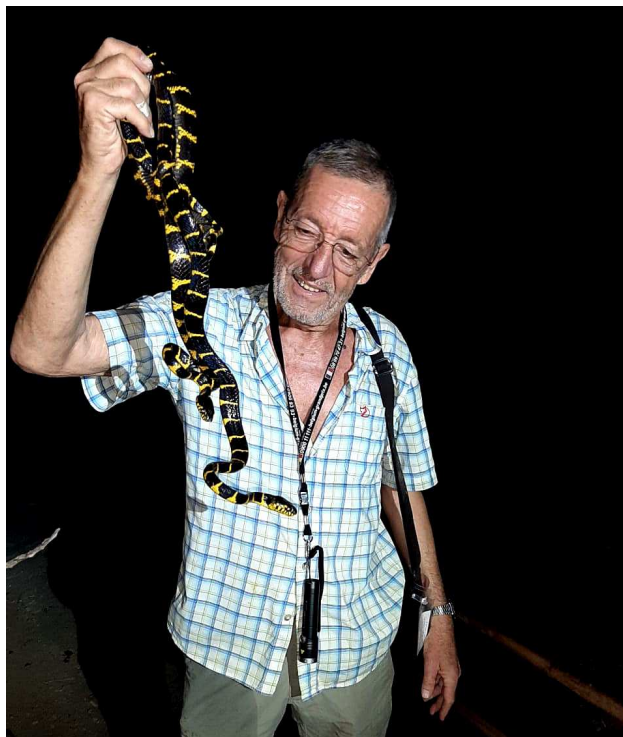
At 8.30 p.m. we leave with Gung Adi. First we go to a place where Bali Reptile Rescue has agreed with 2 Australian friends to photograph a large King Cobra by night. Special atmosphere indeed.



On the first walk that follows we find a new species of gecko, a *Cyrtodactylus* sp., and, at the edge of a rubbish dump, a juvenile *Pareas carinatus*, a smaller version of that of last Sunday.



At 01.00 a.m. we leave for a new place, and there we find no less than 3 yellow-black *Boiga dendrophila* and 1 large white-black. For the latter, both Gung Adi and Patrick had to jump into the water, resulting in wet feet, despite the boots ...
Beautiful snakes where we spend a lot of time to make beautiful pictures.



During the act, the last *Boiga* can't resist giving Patrick a bite anyway. But fortunately, without consequences.

Time flies ... It is 4 a.m. when we arrive at the hotel!

Thursday 7/11

Breakfast at 9.30 a.m. That's quite late, but given our late arrival this morning, it has become a very short night.

Have a quiet breakfast, pack bags, and we can leave around noon.

It is more than 3 hours away, due to the busy traffic, and so we make a stop at a large Eiger store. A bit the cheap version of our AS Adventure in Belgium.

And then everything goes fast:

Patrick and Myriam are dropped off at their hotel in Sanur at 4 p.m.; Shinta, Marta and Fred eat a little something and I am at the airport at 5 p.m.

At 8.45 p.m., 20 minutes earlier than planned, the B787-9 leaves for Istanbul.

Quiet flight.

Friday 8/11

We arrive at Istanbul at 4.20 a.m. And at 8.45 a.m., the crowded A321-200 leaves for Brussels, where Walter is already waiting for me!

Nice trip, great company, very nice meeting again with well-known people such as Shinta, Agus, Ray and the family of the deceased Edy in Bali Reptile Rescue.

In total we have seen 15 species of snakes, which is relatively high in just 5 days.

It is the third time that I have been touring in this area, each time with the same guides.

Very pleasant, but probably the last time there are so many other places to see and we are not getting any younger ...!

Fred



Our beauties



AMPHIBIANS

Duttaphrynus melanostictus
Fejervarya cancrivora
Fejervarya limnocharis
Polypedates leucomystax

Asian Common Toad
Crab-eating Frog
Paddy Field Frog
White-lipped Tree Frog

LIZARDS

Bronchocela jubata
Cyrtodactylus sp.
Draco volans
Eutropis multifasciata
Gekko gekko
Hemidactylus platyurus
Varanus salvator

Maned Forest Lizard
Bent-toed Gecko
Common Flying Dragon
Common Sun Skink
Tokay Gecko
Flat-tailed House Gecko
Asian Water Monitor

SNAKES

Ahaetulla prasina
Boiga cynodon
Boiga dendrophila
Bungarus candidus
Bungarus fasciatus
Dendrelaphis pictus
Laticauda colubrina
Lycodon capucinus
Malayopython reticulatus
Naja sputatrix
Ophiophagus hannah
Pareas carinata
Ptyas korros
Trimeresurus insularis
Xenochrophis piscator

Asian Vine Snake
Dog-toothed Cat Snake
Mangrove Snake
Malayan Krait
Banded Krait
Painted Bronzeback
Yellow-lipped Sea Krait
Oriental Wolf Snake
Reticulated Python
Javan Spitting Cobra
King Cobra
Keeled Slug Snake
Chinese Rat Snake
White-lipped Island Pit Viper
Checkered Keelback