

RED-TAILED PIPE-SNAKE

Cylindrophis ruffus

Laurenti, 1768



PIERRE DE CHABANNES

CLASSIFICATION

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Family: Cylindrophiidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

VERY RARE



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: The species reaches up to 90 cm in body length. Flat-bodied snake with smooth scales, short broad tail, small head and small eyes. Coloration is dark brown to nearly black with more or less bright orange-yellow transversal bands.

Range: This species occurs in South East Asia, from Thailand and Indochina to Malaysia and west Indonesia. Also in Hainan, Hong Kong and south-east China

Habitat : Wet and open lowlands, including rice-fields and agricultural land.

Behavior: Very secretive species, spending most of its life buried in soft soil or under water. It feeds on worms and other invertebrates.

Status in the wild: The species is globally safe and even locally increasing. In Cambodia, over-exploitation has caused local declines.

In captivity: The species is very rare in captivity, both in private and public collections and is hardly ever displayed in zoos. It's currently absent from Europe and hasn't been displayed there since the mid 1970s. Also very rare in American collections.