

PAINTED BRONZEBACK

Dendrelaphis pictus

Gmelin, 1789



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Family: Colubridae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

RARE



NOT LISTED

Identification: Adults can grow to a length of 121 cm. Slender body with elongated head and flattened blunt snout. Cream to yellow belly, back brown, sides blackish with rows of iridescent blue spots, lower flanks with yellow and black longitudinal lines.

Range: The species occurs in South-East Asia, from eastern India to south China, south to Malaysia, western and Central Indonesia and Philippines.

Habitat : Tropical and subtropical forest edges, secondary scrubs and gardens.

Behavior: The species is diurnal and mostly arboreal. Active hunter, feeding mostly on frogs and sometimes on arboreal lizards. Oviparous species.

Status in the wild: The species' status hasn't been assessed yet. It is very adaptable and found in man-made habitats. No threats are known so far in most of its range.

In captivity: This species is probably the commonest of its genus in captivity. It is known from a few south-east Asian zoos but has rarely if ever been bred there. Kept in a single European zoo, sometimes imported but only as wild-caught specimens.