A Big Earth Data Platform for Three Poles

**A wolf in sheep's clothing: Elaphe xiphodonta sp. nov. (Squamata: Colubridae) and its possible mimicry to Protobothrops jerdonii**

1、Description

Based on the combined morphological, osteological characters and molecular phylogeny, we describe a new species of the genus Elaphe that was discovered from the south slope of the Qinling Mountains, Shaanxi, China, namely Elaphe xiphodonta sp. nov. It is distinguished from the other congeners by a combination of the following characters: dorsal scales in 21-21-17 rows, the medial 11 rows keeled; 202–204 ventral scales, 67–68 subcaudals; two preoculars (including one subpreocular); two postoculars; two anterior temporals, three posterior temporals; reduced maxillary teeth and dentary teeth number (maxillary teeth 9+2, dentary teeth 12; sharp cutting edges on the posterior or posterolateral surface of the rear maxillary teeth and dentary teeth; dorsa head yellow, three distinct markings on head and neck; a distinct black labial spot present in supralabials; dorsum yellow, 46–49 complete (or incomplete) large black-edged reddish brown blotches on body and 12–19 on tail, two rows of smaller blotches on each ventrolateral side; ventral scales yellow with mottled irregular black blotches, a few irregular small red spots dispersed on middle of ventral. Based on molecular phylogenetic analyses, the new species forms the sister taxon to E. zoigeensis. The discovery of this new species increases the number of the recognized species of the genus Elaphe to 20.

2、Keywords

Theme：Biological Resources,Reptiles  
Discipline：Human-nature Relationship  
Places：Qinling Mountains  
Time：Recent

3、Data details

1.Scale：None

2.Projection：

3.Filesize：50.0MB

4.Data format：None

4、Space scope

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| - | north：90.0 | - |
| west：32.0 | - | east：34.0 |
| - | south：90.0 | - |

5、Time frame:2020-09-29 16:00:00+00:00--2021-06-13 16:00:00+00:00

6、Reference method

References to data:

SHI Jingsong. A wolf in sheep's clothing: Elaphe xiphodonta sp. nov. (Squamata: Colubridae) and its possible mimicry to Protobothrops jerdonii. A Big Earth Data Platform for Three Poles, doi:10.11888/Ecolo.tpdc.2714562021

References to articles:

7、Supporting project information

Second Tibetan Plateau Scientific Expedition Program

8、Data resource provider

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