

## Two Genetically Distinct yet Morphologically Indistinct *Bungarus* Species (Squamata, Elapidae) in Hong Kong

**Date** 11 Apr (Mon.)

**Time** 10:00 (UTC+8)

**Venue** Zoom



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### Abstract:

Kraits (genus *Bungarus*) are a group of highly venomous elapid snakes found across tropical Asia. Although they are notorious for causing many, often deadly, envenomations throughout the continent, their taxonomy and species nomenclature is subject to regular revisions. The boundaries demarcating *B. candidus*, *B. multicinctus*, and *B. wanghaotingi*, in Southern China and Northern Myanmar are particularly obscure. Despite the extensively overlapping distributions for the three species, only *B. multicinctus* has been documented in Hong Kong. Following genetic analyses, we suggest that both *B. multicinctus* and *B. wanghaotingi* occur in Hong Kong. However, our morphological examinations are overall inconclusive in distinguishing the two species. With potential interspecific antivenin differences, the new identification of *B. wanghaotingi* in Hong Kong is of important medical interest. We recommend further ecological, taxonomic, and behavioural studies be conducted to properly distinguish *B. multicinctus* and *B. wanghaotingi* in the region.

All are welcome!



### About speakers:

**Félix Landry Yuan** is a (soon to be) postdoctoral researcher at Hokkaido University whose work spans the social and ecological dimensions of conservation.

**Tracey-Leigh Prigge** is laboratory manager/senior research assistant in the Conservation Forensics Laboratory at HKU. She is particularly interested in using her molecular background to tackle wildlife trafficking in Hong Kong.

**Yik-Hei Sung** is an assistant professor at the Science Unit of Lingnan University. His research focuses on the ecology and conservation of amphibians, reptiles, and birds.