

The Grey Snake

Hemiaspis damelii

AN EXCITING DISCOVERY

In the Summer of 2018-19, researchers from Charles Sturt University (CSU) were conducting a series of nocturnal frog surveys around the wetlands of the lower Murrumbidgee floodplains.

As well as recording a high number of frogs, the CSU researchers were excited to record a total of 21 sightings of Grey Snakes. These were the first ever confirmed sightings of this species in the Murrumbidgee River catchment!

The locations where the Grey Snakes were sighted include:

- Nap Nap & Eulimbah Swamps
- Two Bridges & Mercedes Swamps (Yanga National Park)
- Piggery Lake (Yanga National Park).

The Grey Snake is currently listed as Endangered in QLD. Dr Damian Michael is now working to have the species listed as Threatened under National legislation.

ABOUT THE GREY SNAKE

- Easily confused with juvenile Eastern Brown Snakes, or Curl Snakes
- Relatively small ~43-60 cm long
- Active at twilight and night
- Feeds mostly on frogs
- Most likely to be found in areas with cracking clay soils, near seasonally inundated wetlands that support high densities of frogs

HAVE YOU SEEN A GREY SNAKE?

If you spot what you think may be a Grey Snake, please take a photo and record as much detail as you can, including: location, time and date, and details of the area such as vegetation, and other animals present.

Send the details to Damian Michael (dmichael@csu.edu.au) or upload to iNaturalist (via the app or website).

Note that Grey Snakes are venomous, so always observe caution if you do see one!

