

Herpetological Fun 2012

Text: Ray So (E&B 2011 graduate)

Photos: Pan Lau (E&B 2010 graduate), Ray So

Summer is now and our honourary professor Dr. Nancy Karraker is back, with some herpetological fun! The six-day Summer Herpetology Course organized and taught by Dr. Karraker and Dr. Billy Hau has proved to be a great success for three years in a row. With an inner voice saying “we should keep this on!”, I invited Dr. Karraker to lead an introductory herp event from 25th Jun to 4th Jul for undergraduates. Thanks to Dr. Karraker, Dr. Hau and demonstrators, this event has been fun and fruitful for participants!

In ideal weather for herping, we set out for the forest streams in Lung Fu Shan and Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve and agricultural fields in Long Valley. In addition to presentations on introduction to herpetology and conservation project in Long Valley given by Dr. Karraker, Pan Lau (graduate who works in Conservancy Association) and Teresa Ma (MPhil) before the trips, herp sampling and observation skills were shared among participants out in the field.

Here are some highlights of the event:



Green Cascade Frog (*Odorrana chloronota*) couple! A locally common stream specialist. Photo: Ray So



Dr. Karraker giving an introductory talk on herpetology. Photo: Ray So



Participants learning amphibian sampling in a forest stream in Lung Fu Shan. Photo: Pan Lau



Teresa Ma introducing her MPhil project on conservation of amphibians in Long Valley. Photo: Ray So



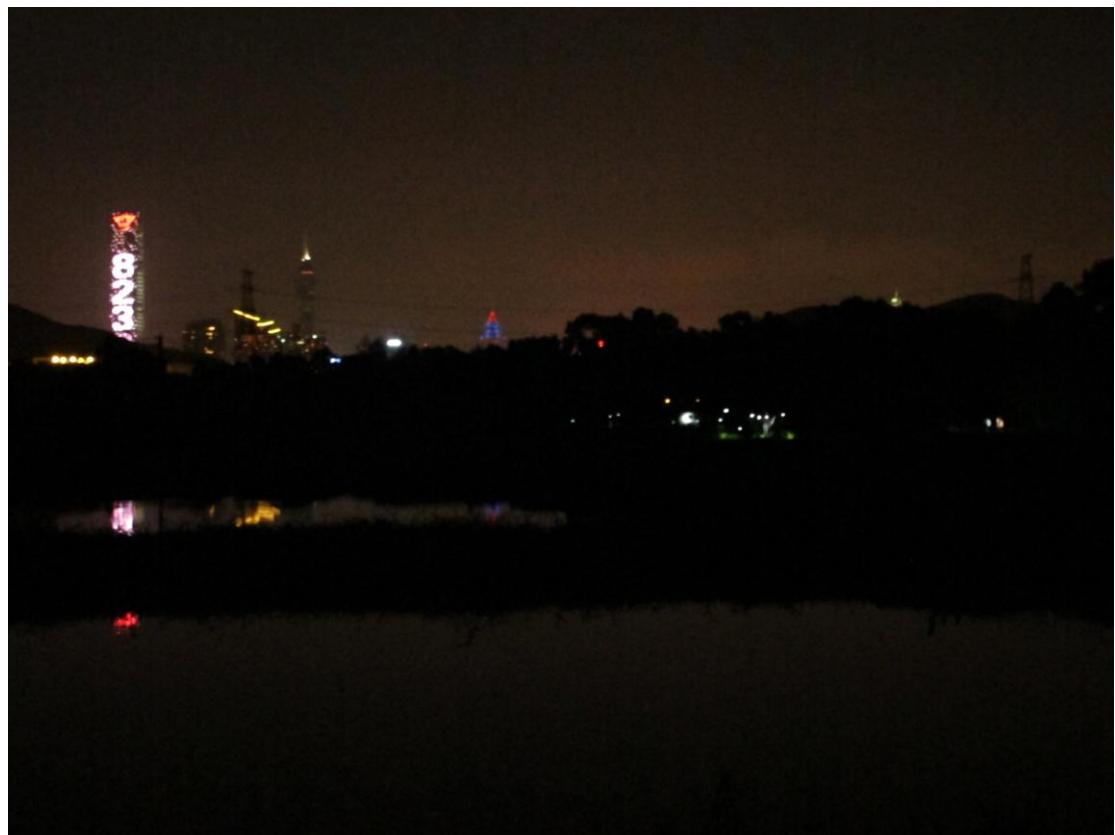
Pan Lau talking about a conservation project as a management agreement between Conservancy Association, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and farmers. Photo: Ray So



Juvenile Striped Stream Snake (*Opisthotropis kuatunensis*) we found in Tai Po Kau. Locally restricted stream species. Photo: Ray So



A very good find by Bond Shum- Chinese Slug Snake (*Pareas chinensis*). A locally rare snake of the forest. Photo: Ray So



Development is closing in Long Valley, one of the few large remaining farmlands in Hong Kong. Yet it's a good sign to see conservationists exploring the site. Photo: Ray So

One final big thank-you to all the people who have contributed to the event as members of the big E&B family: Dr. Nancy Karraker, Dr. Billy Hau, Pan Lau, Teresa Ma, Bond Shum, Elaine Yuen, Michelle Law, Helen Fong, Beetle Cheng, Janice Lo and all the enthusiastic undergraduates!!