



Long celebrated for its remarkable terrestrial vertebrate biodiversity, the Philippines is home to a wide array of amphibian and reptile species diversity, many spectacular endemic taxa, and clades of species which evolved entirely within the archipelago. This herpetofauna has evolutionarily radiated and assembled via ecological processes, and resulting diversity maintained and partitioned by dynamic geological processes and fluctuating sea levels. In a few well-studied regions, biogeographers have identified the signature of strikingly high terrestrial biodiversity that may have resulted from a combination of processes. One such area is the Caraga Region of northeast Mindanao Island, of the southern Philippines. In this area, geographic distributions of at least 126 species of amphibians and reptiles overlap, rendering it the country's most diverse herpetofauna characterized to date. This newly discovered epicenter of terrestrial biodiversity corresponds to an economically impoverished, heavily disturbed geographical pocket, where human population densities are high and a long history of destructive, unsustainable natural resource extraction has resulted in high levels of disturbance to natural forested habitats. The combination of high concentrations of endemic biodiversity and severe conservation urgency renders the Caraga Region a "hotspot within a hotspot" and a major priority for protected area establishment in years to come.

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THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF MINDANAO ISLAND, SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES, II: THE HERPETOFAUNA OF NORTHEAST MINDANAO AND ADJACENT ISLANDS

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Trimeresurus cf. flavomaculatus (Gray, 1842)

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