Malayan bridle snakes at the Central Nature Reserves


Subjects identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve; August, October & December 2008.

Habitat: Parkland bordered by primary rainforest (Bukit Timah Nature Reserve), and secondary lowland forest and freshwater swamp-forest (Nee Soon swamp-forest and Upper Seletar).

Observers: Contributors and others.

Observation: Three separate records of snakes, each around 60 cm in total length, are herein featured.

1) Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Hindhede Nature Park; 30 August 2008, 0018 hrs. One found strapped on a wooden fence by Leong Tzi Ming. Fig. 1 shows the body, while the head and anterior body are in Fig. 2.

2) Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Nee Soon swamp-forest; 18 October 2008. One example seen in the evening creeping on the vertical surface of a concrete pillar supporting a large water pipe, at least 2 metres off the ground (Fig. 3), by Ng Bee Choo and others.

3) Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Upper Seletar Reservoir Park, adjacent forest; 6 December 2008, 2021 hrs. An example was encountered draped over some fallen twigs, about half a metre off the ground (Fig. 4), by Kelvin K. P. Lim and others.

Remarks: This distinctively marked snake is locally restricted to the Central Nature Reserves, and is regarded as an endangered species within Singapore (Lim et al., 2008: 163).

Fig. 3. Malayan bridle snake at Nee Soon swamp-forest on 18 October 2008. Photograph by Ng Bee Choo

Fig. 4. Malayan bridle snake at Upper Seletar forest on 6 December 2008. Photograph by Kelvin K. P. Lim

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