

Common Malayan racer at Ulu Simpang Kiri

Subject: Common Malayan racer, *Coelognathus flavolineatus* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Sembawang, Ulu Simpang Kiri along the Johor Strait; 20 April 2016; around 2045 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine section of a large (about 25 m wide) concretised canal flanked by scrubland, mangroves and young secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: One adult example of about 1.5 m total length was observed at night for about 30 minutes inside the canal where it appeared to have difficulty escaping. It tried unsuccessfully to crawl up the steep sides of the canal, and in the process, swam the width of the canal a total of three times. The accompanying photograph was taken at a point where the snake had reached the mouth of the canal. It then swam to the shore along the Johor Strait and went inland from there.

Remarks: *Coelognathus flavolineatus* is an uncommon large snake that is widely distributed across Singapore, and is believed to be diurnal (Baker & Lim, 2012: 98). The present record shows that this snake can be active in the night, but it could have been forced in this case by the snake's apparent eagerness to get out of the canal.

Reference: Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes*. Updated edition. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.



Photograph by David Groenewoud

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