

Striped bronzeback neonates at Upper Peirce

Subjects: Striped bronzeback, *Dendrelaphis caudolineatus* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, access road to Upper Peirce Reservoir Park; 24 December 2013; 1059 hrs.

Habitat: At the sighting location, the road is flanked on both sides by young secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: Two examples, apparently hatchlings, were found in the middle of the road. One was a roadkill measuring 28 cm in total length. The other was alive and was crossing the road from west to east. The live individual, which was the same size as the roadkill, was photographed and protected from passing vehicles while it navigated the road and attempted to cross a drain with a V-shaped cross-section on the eastern side. After locating a part of the drain with a rough, mossy surface, it was able to climb out of the drain and enter the forest. The roadkill was collected for preservation in the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the National University of Singapore.

Remarks: In Singapore, the striped bronzeback is widespread in the Central Nature Reserves, and other wooded areas, and is considered to be a common snake (Baker and Lim, 2012). Adults reach around 1.5 m in total length and neonates (hatchlings) measure 34 cm. Each clutch comprises 5 to 8 eggs, and the incubation period is about 54 days (Das, 2010). The present hatchlings are 6 cm shorter and seem to have hatched out of eggs laid around the end of October.

References:

- Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes*. Reprint with corrections and updates. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.
- Das, I., 2010. *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 376 pp.



Fig. 1. Head of live neonate striped bronzeback.

Photograph by Nick Baker



Fig. 2. Striped bronzeback climbing up side of drain.

Photograph by Nick Baker.

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