Spotted keelback at Venus Drive


Subject identified by: Marcus A. H. Chua.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Venus Drive trail adjacent to MacRitchie forest, 5 October 2013; 1150 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest. Among leaf litter by an ephemeral forest pool, about 3 m off the trail.

Observers: Contributor and others.

Observation: A young individual of about 40 cm total length, was seen at a pool frequented by at least five species of forest-dependent odonates. A four-ridged toad (*Ingerophrynus quadriporcatus*) was also seen in the pool on the same day. The snake was captured briefly for identification and later released.

Remarks: *Xenochrophis maculatus* is known from Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo, Bangka, Belitung, Natuna and Riau archipelagos. This semi-aquatic species is reported to frequent open forests in the lowlands, near streams and ditches. Its diet is said to include frogs and toads (Das, 2012: 128). The species is listed as locally ‘vulnerable’ in the Singapore Red Data Book (Lim, 2008: 265).

References: