Big-eye green whip snake at Venus Drive


Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Venus Drive trail adjacent to MacRitchie forest; 20 November 2009; 1040 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest. On branches of a small tree, on a slope between the path and a small flowing stream.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: The snake, of between 60 and 70 cm total length, was seen curled around the branches of a small tree about 1.5 m off the ground, and close to a small stream in mature secondary forest/old plantation at night. It assumed a threat posture while being photographed but did not strike or flee.

Remarks: *Ahaetulla mycterizans* is known from Peninsular Malaysia, Thailand, Sumatra and Java (Das, 2012: 18). In Singapore, it is considered ‘critically endangered’, being restricted to mature forest (Lim et al., 2008: 161), as compared to the Oriental whip snake (*Ahaetulla prasina*), which can be found in disturbed habitats such as forest edges, parks and overgrown gardens. Identification is based on the noticeably larger eye (compared to that of *Ahaetulla prasina*) with the orbit forming a distinct ridge or ‘brow’ on the upper contour of the head.

References:


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