

Striped tree skink at Dairy Farm Nature Park

Subject: Striped tree skink, *Lipinia vittigera* (Reptilia: Sauria: Scincidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Dairy Farm Nature Park, Dairy Farm Loop; 12 August 2012; 0920 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest edge.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: One example of about 10 cm total length was seen at about 1.5 m up on a tree trunk. While the lizard's body and head were not moving, its tail was wiggling.

Remarks: The lizard is believed to be using its bright yellow tail as a lure. It may be simulating a worm in distress. This activity may attract ants in the vicinity to approach the lizard, which is likely to eat them one at a time. However, this is pure speculation as the event was not observed. The striped tree skink is locally uncommon and has been recorded only from the Central Nature Reserves (Baker & Lim, 2012: 85).

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.



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