

## Elegant bronzeback at MacRitchie forest

**Subject:** Elegant bronzeback, *Dendrelaphis formosus* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

**Subject identified by:** Daniel J. J. Ng & Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, MacRitchie forest, Windsor end near Gardenia Road entrance; 26 February 2014; 1100 hrs.

**Habitat:** Secondary forest.

**Observers:** Contributors.

**Observation:** An adult example of about 1 m total length was observed flicking its tongue rapidly while gliding slowly along branches about 1 m off the ground.

**Remarks:** The elegant bronzeback is distinguished from its five congeners in Singapore by its exceptionally large eyes, broad black stripe on the side of the head and neck, and three thin black lines along the lateral rear part of the body (Baker & Lim, 2012: 99). It is regarded as an endangered species in Singapore where it is known only from the Central Nature Reserves (Lim et al., 2008: 162).

### References:

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.

Lim, K. K. P., Baker, N., Teo, R. & T.M. Leong, 2008. Reptiles. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (Eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. Second Edition. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 160–176.



Photograph by Louise Neo

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