

Striped keelback on Pulau Ubin

Subject: Striped keelback, *Xenochrophis vittatus* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Natricidae).

Subject identified by: Noel Thomas.

Location, date and time: Pulau Ubin, centre of southern part; 2 August 2013; 1620 hrs.

Habitat: Grassy area near a freshwater habitat.

Observers: Contributors and others.

Observation: A juvenile example of about 20 cm total length was seen on the ground.

Remarks: The striped keelback is an introduced species that is present in many open grassy areas on Singapore Island, particularly in the western part (Baker & Lim, 2012: 114). This record seems to be the first from an offshore locality, and also an indication that this snake is also present in the north-eastern part of Singapore Island. The example being a juvenile suggests that a breeding population is established on the smaller island.

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.



Photograph by Fung Tze Kwan

Contributors: **Fung Tze Kwan & Chan Xiu Li**
Contact address: fungtzekwan@gmail.com