

Green iguana at Kovan

Subject: Green iguana, *Iguana iguana* (Reptilia: Sauria: Iguanidae).

Subject identified by: Christopher Z. Y. Puan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Kovan area, Jalan Rengkam; 26 April 2014; 1140 hrs.

Habitat: Suburban housing estate with low concrete buildings and gardens.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: An sub-adult example of at least 50 cm total length was found on a wall of a terrace house. This individual has been noticed in the neighbourhood since 12 April 2014.

Remarks: The green iguana is native to tropical America, and free-ranging examples in Singapore are most likely escaped or abandoned house pets that may have been illegally imported. This species is common in the pet trade, and many have been bred for this purpose on farms in Central American countries such as El Salvador and Costa Rica. Adult iguanas can grow to well over 1.5 m in total length and although they are vegetarians, large males in the breeding season can become aggressive and potentially dangerous (Bartlett, Griswold & Bartlett, 2001: 78-79).

Reference: P. P. Bartlett, B. Griswold & R. D. Bartlett, 2001. *Reptiles, Amphibians and Invertebrates. An Identification and Care Guide*. Barron's Educational Series, Inc., Hauppauge, New York, USA. vii + 279 pp.



Photograph by Jeremy W. L. Yeo

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