

Puff-faced water snakes at Nee Soon swamp-forest

Subjects: Puff-faced watersnake, *Homalopsis buccata* (Squamata: Serpentes: Homalopsidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Nee Soon swamp-forest; 2 April 2014, 2030 hrs.

Habitat: Stream in freshwater swamp-forest, with sandy-clay banks, leaf-litter, clear flowing water, root mats of riparian vegetation and leaf litter.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: Two juvenile puff-faced water snakes, both around 35 cm total length (one of them shown in the photograph), were observed amongst submerged leaf litter and root mats, just at the water surface, probably attempting to ambush passing fish.

Remarks: Although locally uncommon, the puff-faced water snake is widespread on Singapore Island, occurring in many unpolluted freshwater channels and ponds (Baker & Lim, 2012: 111).

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 Tan Heok Hui

Contributor: **Tan Heok Hui**

Contact address: nhmthh@nus.edu.sg