

Barred kukri snakes at MacRitchie forest

Subjects: Barred kukri snake, *Oligodon signatus* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subjects identified by: Jerome Chua & Nick Baker.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, around MacRitchie Reservoir; 11 & 24 April 2014; 2210 & 0945 hrs.

Habitat: Mature secondary lowland rainforest.

Observers: Jerome Chua & Shrimathi Swaminathan.

Observations: Two separate records are herein featured.

1) 11 April 2014 at 2210 hrs. An example of around 30 cm total length was seen by Jerome Chua north of the MacRitchie Reservoir. The snake was moving along the wall of a roadside drain and was noted to make obvious attempts to avoid water. It was helped out of the drain where it was photographed (Fig. 1) before it was returned to the forest.

2) 24 April 2014 at 0945 hrs. An example of about 45 cm total length was observed by Shrimathi Swaminathan on a jogging trail through the forest along the southern shore of MacRitchie Reservoir. A part of its tail appears to be lost (Fig 2).

Remarks: The barred kukri snake is regarded as a 'critically endangered' species in Singapore where it is known to occur in mature forests. Published records suggest that it is confined to the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves. (Lim et al., 2008: 164).

Reference: Lim, K. K. P., N. Baker, R. Teo & 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.

Contributors: Noel **Thomas** & Jerome **Chua**

Contact address: noelthomas82@gmail.com (Thomas)



Fig 1. Barred kukri snake from north of MacRitchie Reservoir on 11 April 2014. Photo by Jerome Chua



Fig 2. Barred kukri snake from south of MacRitchie Reservoir on 24 April 2014. Photo by Shrimathi Swaminathan