

Banded wolf snake at Chestnut forest

Subject: Banded wolf snake, *Lycodon subcinctus* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island; Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Chestnut forest, Gangsa Track alongside Bukit Timah Expressway between entrances of Kranji Expressway and Zhenghua Flyover; 8 July 2014; 2220 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observers: Contributors, with Nathanael Maury.

Observation: A young example of about 30 cm total length was found crossing a grassy patch adjacent to the trail. Fig. 1 shows the arrangement of scales on the dorsal surface of the head. Fig. 2 shows the widely spaced distinct white bars on the anterior part of its body.

Remarks: The banded wolf snake is regarded as a 'critically endangered' species in Singapore (Lim et al., 2008: 164). The present sighting is only the fourth recent local record, with the last one observed in the Nee Soon swamp-forest in October 2011 (Ng et al., 2013).

References:

- 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.
- Ng, D. J. J., S. S. Liu, K. K. H. Heng & M. S. Prarthini, 2013. Banded wolf snake at Nee Soon swamp-forest. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 88.



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of head.



Fig. 2. Dorsal view of anterior part of body.

Photographs by John Wei

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