

Brown Spiny Rat carcass at Chestnut forest

Subject: Brown spiny rat, *Maxomys rajah* (Mammalia: Rodentia: Muridae).

Subject identified by: Contributor and Marcus Chua.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island; Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Chestnut forest, Gangsa Track alongside the Bukit Timah Expressway between the entrances of the Kranji Expressway and the Zhenghua Flyover; 9 July 2014; 2025 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observers: Contributor, with Tan Hun Kiat.

Observation: A carcass of a male brown spiny rat with head-and-body length of 19 cm and tail length of 17.5 cm was found lying in the middle of the trail. The specimen was stiff and covered in ants. The animal has been deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore.

Remarks: The brown spiny rat inhabits rainforest habitats, and is regarded as an endangered species in Singapore (Lim et al., 2008).

Reference: Lim, K. K. P., R. Subaraj, S. H. Yeo, N. Lim, D. Lane & B. Y. H. Lee, 2008. Mammals. 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. 190-270.



Photograph by Mary-Ruth Low

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