

Black-bearded flying dragon at Kampung Trail

Subject: Black-bearded flying dragon, *Draco melanopogon* (Reptilia: Sauria: Agamidae).

Subject identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Kampung Trail off the eastern side of Rifle Range Road; 21 July 2014; 1210 hrs.

Habitat: Young secondary forest at site of former village.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: An adult male of about 20 cm total length was observed gliding and landing on the trunk of a large tree at about 2 m off the ground (see accompanying picture).

Remarks: In Singapore, the black-bearded flying dragon occurs in mature forests of the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves, and can be identified by its relatively slender appearance, yellow-spotted blackish patagium [flight membrane on each side of the torso supported by extensions of the ribs], and the distinctive black and orange throat sac (Baker & Lim, 2012: 76).

It is interesting to note the presence of this lizard in an isolated patch of regenerated forest that was formerly a rural village. This small area is separated from the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve by Rifle Range Road, and from the Central Catchment Nature Reserve by the Bukit Timah Expressway.

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 Cheryl S. W. Chia

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