Black-bearded flying dragon at Kampung Trail


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.


Photograph by Cheryl S. W. Chia

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