

Kendall's rock gecko at Thomson Ridge

Subject: Kendall's rock gecko, *Cnemaspis kendallii* (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, eastern MacRitchie forest at Thomson Ridge; 1 August 2014; 2045 hrs.

Habitat: Mature secondary forest and primary forest, on the trunk of a fallen tree.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: One adult individual of about 12 cm total length was encountered resting upside-down on the apparently dry underside of a fallen tree trunk (approximately 20 cm in diameter), at about 1 m above the ground (see accompanying picture). The lizard remained in this same place and stayed still for at least a minute. When the contributor had to approach it more closely in order to proceed further along the forest trail, the animal fled down the sloping trunk towards the leaf-litter on the ground.

Remarks: *Cnemaspis kendallii* is an inhabitant of mature forest, and in Singapore, seems confined to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and Pulau Tekong, where it inhabits tree trunks and large boulders (Teo & Rajathurai, 1997: 389; Baker & Lim, 2012: 78). The contributor had occasionally encountered this species on artificial structures in the forest, such as ruins of old buildings, and on concrete pipes. In the eastern part of the MacRitchie forest, the Kendall's rock gecko is also known from the area around Venus Drive.

References:

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.

Teo, R. C. H. & S. Rajathurai, 1997. Mammals, reptiles and amphibians in the nature reserves of Singapore – diversity, abundance and distribution. *The Gardens' Bulletin, Singapore*. 49: 353-425.



Adult *Cnemaspis kendallii* on the underside of a fallen tree trunk. Photograph by David Groenewoud

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