

Olive tree skink roadkill at Old Upper Thomson Road

Subject: Olive tree skink, *Dasia olivacea* (Reptilia: Sauria: Scincidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Old Upper Thomson Road, near junction of access road to Upper Peirce Reservoir Park; 10 April 2014; 1415 hrs.

Habitat: Two-lane metalled road through secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: The observer was driving northwards along Old Upper Thomson Road, when a lizard was seen running across the road. It had exited the State Land on the eastern side and was attempting to enter the Central Catchment Nature Reserve on the western side. Unexpectedly, it ran straight under the front offside wheel of the vehicle and was immediately crushed to death. The victim, an adult of about 17 cm total length, was retrieved and later photographed, before being deposited as a voucher specimen in the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore. Most of the scales on its dorsum were abraded during the accident (see accompanying picture).

Remarks: The largely arboreal olive tree skink is rarely seen in Singapore, being known only from forest at the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves, as well as on Pulau Ubin. It is regarded as an 'endangered' species in Singapore (Lim et al., 2008: 168).

Reference: 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.



Ex-situ picture of roadkill olive tree skink from Old Upper Thomson Road. Photograph by Nick Baker

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