

Paradise gliding snake in an apartment at Hillview

Subject: Paradise gliding snake, *Chrysopelea paradisi* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, condominium between Hillview Road and Hume Avenue; 10 August 2008; 1100 hrs.

Habitat: Urban. Concrete apartment building, in a unit on the second floor.

Observers: Contributor & Susan Chia.

Observations: An adult example of about 1 m total length (Fig. 1) was found in the bathroom in an apartment unit after it came out of its hiding place and was observed on a ledge. Apparently it had been staying in the bathroom for some time, perhaps days, as it had left its slough on a bunch of decorative dried flowers (Fig. 2). The snake was captured and relocated to a forested area at Kent Ridge.

Remarks: In Singapore, the paradise gliding snake is often found in urban parks and gardens. It is largely arboreal and is renowned for its ability to glide by flattening its body dorso-ventrally (Baker & Lim, 2012: 97). As illustrated by the present observation, this snake is occasionally encountered in houses, possibly to hunt for geckos. It could have entered the apartment by scaling the concrete walls of the building.

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. & Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.



Fig. 1. The paradise gliding snake that was captured in the bathroom of the apartment.



Fig. 2. Slough left by the snake among a bunch of dried flowers.

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