

Estuarine crocodile scavenging on carcass of domestic cat

Subjects: Estuarine crocodile, *Crocodylus porosus* (Reptilia: Crocodylia: Crocodylidae);
Domestic cat, *Felis catus* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Sungei Buloh Besar, along the main bridge of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve; 18 November 2014; around 1640 hrs.

Habitat: Mangrove-lined estuary.

Observer: Contributor, with Robert Heigermoser and Goh Seok Ping.

Observation: An estuarine crocodile of about 2 m total length was observed scavenging on a dead juvenile domestic cat in the river. As the carcass was floating into the river with the rising tide, a crocodile approached it (Fig. 1) and grasped it in its jaws (Fig. 2). The crocodile brought the kitten to the bank of the river before proceeding to swallow it whole (Fig. 3 & 4). The four pictures attached here (Fig. 1-4) were extracted from a video footage shot by the contributor. It can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/Qjz0U5bZCTk>.

Remarks: The estuarine crocodile is regarded as ‘critically endangered’ in Singapore (Lim et al., 2008: 173), and Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve may be the best place in the country to see wild individuals. The present observation implies that crocodiles can contribute to the health of waterways by eating carrion.

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. Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 160-176.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Fig. 1-4. Dorsal and lateral views of estuarine crocodile approaching and consuming carcass of kitten at Sungei Buloh Besar. Photographs extracted from video by Tammy Lim

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