

Singapore bent-toed gecko swimming underwater

Subject: Singapore bent-toed gecko, *Cyrtodactylus majulah* (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Upper Seletar forest; 23 January 2015; around 2100 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater swamp forest, in a shallow stream.

Observer: Contributor.

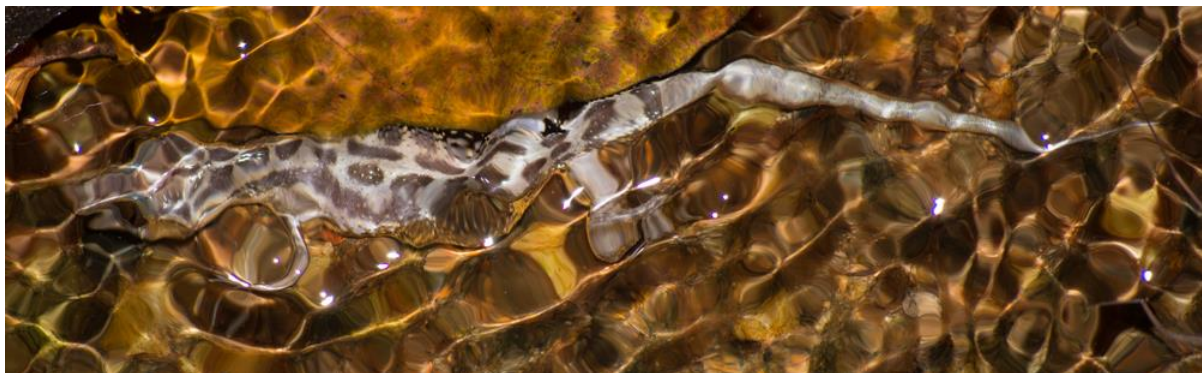
Observation: An example of about 10 cm total length was observed swimming underwater, and then remained submerged at the bottom of the stream, in about 3 cm depth of water (see accompanying picture). After two minutes, the contributor left. He returned about a minute later to check on the animal, but it had disappeared.

Remarks: The featured gecko may have been alarmed and attempting to escape from a potential threat, which was very likely to be the contributor. This behaviour seems unusual for members of the Gekkonidae, and does not appear to have been previously recorded among the species found in Singapore or Peninsular Malaysia. *Cyrtodactylus pantiensis*, a similar riparian species found just across the Causeway in southeastern Johor, Malaysia, has been observed to 'jump into the water and run across its surface to escape capture' (Grismer, 2011: 414).

Cyrtodactylus majulah, described in 2012, is known only from Singapore Island and Pulau Bintan in the Riau Archipelago of Indonesia (Grismer et al., 2012: 495).

References:

- Grismer, L. L., 2011. *Lizards of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, and their Adjacent Archipelagos. Their Description, Distribution, and Natural History*. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 728 pp.
- Grismer, L. L., P. L. Jr. Wood & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Cyrtodactylus majulah*, a new species of bent-toed gecko (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Singapore and the Riau Archipelago. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. 60 (2): 487-499.



Photograph by David Groenewoud

Contributor: David Groenewoud
Contact address: davidgroenewoud@hotmail.com