

## Rainbow mud snake at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

**Subject:** Rainbow mud snake, *Enhydryis enhydryis* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Homalopsidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributors.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, pond at Wetland Centre; 14 November 2014; 0940 hrs.

**Habitat:** Freshwater pond in scrubland.

**Observers:** Contributors.

**Observation:** A fresh carcass measuring about 40 cm total length was found at the edge of the pond (Fig. 1). Apart from a large wound in the neck region (indicated by an arrow in Fig. 2), no other external injury was detected.

**Remarks:** The carcass has been collected and deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore. It is not known what caused the wound on the subject, or if it had succumbed from the injury. The rainbow mud snake is believed to be a recent introduction to Singapore, possibly imported as accidental stowaways among aquatic and marsh vegetation by plant nurseries in the area (Lim & D’Rozario, 2009). It has been recorded from the north-western corner of Singapore Island since 2008 by Lim & D’Rozario (2009), Chua (2010: 101, misidentified as *Xenopeltis unicolor*) and Baker & Thomas (2013).

### References:

- Baker, N. & N. Thomas, 2013. Rainbow mud snakes at Kranji Marsh. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 47.
- Chua E. K., 2010. *Wetlands in a City. The Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve*. Simply Green, Singapore. 176 pp.
- Lim, K. K. P. & V. D’Rozario, 2009. The rainbow mud snake, *Enhydryis enhydryis* (Schneider) [Reptilia: Squamata: Homalopsidae] in Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*. 2: 9–12.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of entire carcass of the rainbow water snake. Photograph by Ivan W. M. Kwan



Fig. 2. View of the snake's head and anterior section, showing the large wound in the neck. Photograph by Ivan W.M. Kwan

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