Rainbow mud snake at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve


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:
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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