

Gold-ringed cat snake at Lower Peirce forest

Subject: Gold-ringed cat snake, *Boiga dendrophila* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Lower Peirce forest at edge of Lower Peirce Reservoir; 11 November 2015; 1920 hrs.

Habitat: Mature secondary forest, at edge of freshwater lake.

Observers: Contributor with Tomokazu Kawashima.

Observation: An adult example of about 1.6 m total length was seen moving from the water's edge into the water. It proceeded to swim at the surface of the water in a lateral undulating motion with its head slightly raised (see attached picture), obliquely away from the shore.

Remarks: The gold-ringed cat snake is listed as nationally Vulnerable (Lim., 2008: 264) in Singapore. Although regarded as mostly arboreal, Baker & Lim (2012) noted that this widespread but rare species is 'often encountered in pools and streams'.

References:

- 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 & Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.
- Lim, K. K. P., 2008. Fishes, Amphibians and Reptiles. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants and Animals of Singapore*. Second edition. p. 263-266.



Photograph by Marcus A. H. Chua

Contributor: Marcus A. H. Chua
Contact address: maruschua@nus.edu.sg