

Black-headed collared snakes at Mandai and Kranji

Subjects: Black-headed collared snake, *Sibynophis melanocephalus* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island -

- 1) Mandai Lake Road, in the compound of the Night Safari; 5 January 2016; 0915 hrs.
- 2) Kranji, Turut Track; 14 January 2016; 1055 hrs.

Habitat: 1) Parkland adjacent to secondary forest. 2) Road bordered by scrubland.

Observers: 1) Contributor with Roopali Raghavan. 2) Contributor with Shamla Subaraj.

Observations: Two individuals, both around 20 cm total length, were recorded -

- 1) An example was found under leaf litter at the forest edge (Fig. 1).
- 2) One individual was encountered crossing the road between wooded patches (Fig. 2).

Remarks: In Singapore, the black-headed collared snake is known from the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (Baker & Lim, 2012: 108), where an example was recently observed at Upper Peirce (Lee, 2015). In the Kranji area, a 35 cm roadkill was found along Neo Tiew Road on 27 December 1992 (Lim & Subharaj, 1992: 6). The present observation from Turut Track confirms the presence of this species in the Kranji area.

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.
- Lee H. L., 2015. Black-headed collared snake at Upper Peirce Reservoir Park. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2015: 62.
- Lim, K. K. P. & R. Subharaj, 1992. Current records: reptiles & amphibians. *The Pangolin*. The Nature Society (Singapore). 5 (1-4): 5-11.



Fig. 1. Side view of example from Mandai Lake Road.



Fig. 2. Top view of example from Turut Track.

Photographs by Subaraj Rajathurai

Contributor: **Subaraj Rajathurai**

Contact address: wildlifeconsultant@subaraj.com