

Mosquitoes feeding on many-lined sun skink

Subjects: Many-lined sun skink, *Eutropis multifasciata* (Reptilia: Sauria: Scincidae);
Aedes sp. (Insecta: Diptera: Culicidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Belukar Track, 25 April 2014, 1051 hrs.

Habitat: Edge of secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: One adult *Eutropis multifasciata* was observed basking in a small patch of sunlight on the forest floor (Fig. 1). A mosquito landed on the lizard's snout (Fig. 2), followed by another mosquito within a few seconds (Fig. 3). The mosquitoes sucked blood from the skink's snout for approximately two minutes until their abdomens became visibly filled with blood (Fig. 4 & 5), then flew off. (Fig. 5.). About 20 seconds later, the skink scurried off. It did not flinch or move while the mosquitoes were feeding on it.

Remarks: *Eutropis multifasciata* is a common terrestrial lizard of wooded areas such as forests, parks and mangroves (Baker & Lim, 2012). Although it feeds primarily on insects, the featured example made no attempt to prey on the mosquitoes that were feeding right at its mouth, drawing blood apparently from the exposed edges of the mouth. This observation shows that mosquitoes can feed on reptiles that are covered by scales.

Reference: 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 and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

Photographs by Noel Thomas



Fig. 5. The two mosquitoes with their abdomens distended with blood shortly before flying off. Photograph by Noel Thomas

Contributor: Noel **Thomas**

Contact address: noelthomas82@gmail.com