Short-limbed supple skink at the Singapore Botanic Gardens

**Subject**: Short-limbed supple skink, *Lygosoma quadrupes* (Reptilia: Sauria: Scincidae).

**Subject identified by**: Contributor.

**Location, date and time**: Singapore Island, Singapore Botanic Gardens at the Bukit Timah Campus of the National University of Singapore; 29 February 2016; around 1100 hrs.

**Habitat**: Urban parkland. On the ground floor of a two-storey concrete building.

**Observer**: Contributor.

**Observation**: An example of about 7 cm snout-vent length and around 10 cm total length (see attached picture) was found on the floor of a toilet.

**Remarks**: *Lygosoma quadrupes* is a sub-fossorial lizard that is found in leaf litter in lowland forests as well as open agricultural land in many localities in Southeast Asia (Das, 2010: 240; Grismer, 2011: 621). Although the species was recorded from Singapore in 1847 (Cantor, 1847: 655 as *Lygosoma chalcides*), it was not mentioned or observed thereafter (see: Sworder, 1925; Grismer, 2011: 624). The featured example can be regarded as a rediscovery of this species in Singapore. However, its presence in an urban parkland hints at the possibility of it having been recently introduced with potted plants.

Within Singapore, *Lygosoma quadrupes* can be distinguished from the locally common garden supple skink (*Lygosoma bowringii*) by its comparatively longer body without blackish sides and smaller limbs. The tail of *Lygosoma quadrupes*, if undamaged, is as long as, or slightly longer than its body (see: photographs in Grismer, 2011: 621-622). The relatively short tail of the featured example could be a regenerated appendage.

**References**:
Sworder, G. H., 1925. The lizards of Singapore Island. The Singapore Naturalist. 5: 61-68.