

Golden gliding snake at Marina South

Subject: Golden gliding snake, *Chrysopelea ornata* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Law Ing Sind & Kenneth Chin.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Marina South, Gardens by the Bay; 1 January 2017; 16:38 hrs.

Habitat: On a tree in urban parkland.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: An example of about one metre total length was observed crawling on a tree, poking its head into crevices, apparently searching for prey. The accompanying picture shows a dorsal view of the entire snake with its head at the bottom right corner.

Remarks: This seems to be the second specimen of *Chrysopelea ornata* to be recorded wild in Singapore. The earlier example was found nearby at a building construction site along Shenton Way in May 2013 (Thomas & Boopal, 2014).

The present sighting seems to suggest the possibility of this non-native species having established a breeding population in the city area. Further observations are required to show if this has occurred. Photographs with close-up views of the markings on the dorsal scales are essential to distinguish this snake from the very similar paradise gliding snake (*Chrysopelea paradisi*) which is native to Singapore.

Reference: Thomas, N. & A. Boopal, 2014. Golden gliding snake at Shenton Way. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 51.

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Photograph by Ted Ng