

Dog-toothed cat snake at Pasir Ris

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Subject: Dog-toothed cat snake, *Boiga cynodon* (Reptilia: Squamata: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Serin Subaraj.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Pasir Ris, Pasir Ris Heights; 7 September 2017; around 2130 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland. On a concrete pavement.

Observer: Author.

Observation: The featured snake, at least 1.8 m in total length, was encountered at the edge of a pavement overlooking a drain. It was stretched out on the floor and quite motionless (see accompanying picture), with minimal head movement. It appeared calm and non-aggressive, and did not react to the observer taking pictures.

Remarks: This usually arboreal and nocturnal snake inhabits forest, and in Singapore, is believed to be rare and restricted to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve and the adjacent islands of Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong (Baker & Lim, 2012: 94, 160). Within Singapore, the dog-toothed cat snake is regarded as an 'endangered' species (Lim, 2008: 264). This appears to be the first time in recent years that an example is recorded at Pasir Ris.



Lateral view of the dog-toothed cat snake on the pavement at Pasir Ris Heights. Photograph by Cornelius Loh

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