

A banded wolf snake at Upper Seletar

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Subject: Banded wolf snake, *Lycodon subcinctus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Serin Subaraj.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Upper Seletar Reservoir Park; 20 October 2017; 2120 hrs.

Habitat: On metaled road inside parkland adjacent to freshwater swamp-forest.

Observers: Andrew Tay with Kripa Shankar Dubey.

Observation: An example of about 55 cm total length, immobile but still twitching, was found along the road leading to a car-park (Fig. 1). The snake was moved to the side of the road (Fig. 2) to prevent it from being crushed by vehicles.

Remarks: The banded wolf snake is a rare species in Singapore that is regarded as ‘critically endangered’ in the country (Lim et al., 2008: 164). The first recent specimen, a roadkill, was found along the road to Upper Peirce Reservoir Park in 1988 (Lim, 1988: 63). Eighteen years later in 2006, a live adult was photographed on Pulau Tekong (Lim et al., 2016: 184). Even more recently, two live examples were encountered in the forest of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. One was from inside Nee Soon swamp-forest in October 2011 (Ng et al., 2013), the other at Chestnut forest in July 2014 (Low & Wei, 2014).

The featured snake was fatally injured. That it was found on the road suggests that it was run over by a vehicle. However, there were no signs of it having been crushed.

References:

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- Lim, K. K. P., M. A. H. Chua & N. T-L. Lim, 2016. Freshwater fishes, terrestrial herpetofaunal and mammals of Pulau Tekong, Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*. 9: 165-198.
- Low, M.-R. & J. Wei, 2014. Banded wolf snake at Chestnut forest. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 192.
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Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of the banded wolf snake as it was found on the road.



Fig. 2. View of the dorso-lateral aspect of the entire snake after it was moved to the side of the road.

Photographs by Andrew Tay