

## Orange-bellied ring-neck snake at Bukit Kalang

**Subject:** Orange-bellied ringneck, *Gongylosoma baliodeirum* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Bukit Kalang area near Treetop Walk; 29 March 2017; 2100 hrs.

**Habitat:** Edge of mature secondary forest, with dense growths of fern, along a wide grassy path.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** An individual of about 30 cm total length was observed resting on a fern at the side of a path (Fig. 1-3). The snake did not move when approached. It was seen again two hours later in the same location, having not moved from the position. Heavy rain in the area was noted earlier in the day.

**Remarks:** In Singapore, this snake appears to inhabit forest, and is recorded mainly from the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves (Baker & Lim, 2012: 113). Two apparent colour forms of *Gongylosoma baliodeirum* have been recorded from Singapore. Lim & Lee (1989: 51 as *Liopeltis baliodeira*) illustrate a 'variable form' that differs from the featured specimen, which belongs to the typical form, in having a dark mottled pattern over the back, a narrow orange stripe on both sides of the body, and absence of white spots on the neck region. It is not known if these two colour forms are actually conspecific.

### 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, F. L. K. & M. T.-M. Lee, 1989. *Fascinating Snakes of Southeast Asia - an Introduction*. Tropical Press Sdn. Bhd., Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. xvii + 124 pp.

**Note:** The contributor has permission from the National Parks Board to conduct night surveys in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve.



Fig. 1. View of the dorsum of the entire snake resting on a fern. Photograph by Connor Butler



Fig. 2. Lateral view of the right side of the head and anterior body, and the left side of the tail.



Fig. 3. Lateral view of the left side of the snake's head and anterior body.

Photographs by Connor Butler

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