

Frilly gecko at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve

Subject: Frilly gecko, *Hemidactylus craspedotus* (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve; 27 April 2017; 0730-0930 hrs.

Habitat: Primary lowland rainforest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: A single example of around 10 cm total length was sighted about 4 m above the ground on the southern side of a tree trunk (Fig. 1). A gecko of identical size, presumably the same individual, was seen two hours later on the same tree, but at a sunlit eastern position about 2 m higher than first sighting (Fig. 2). The gecko was not seen at 1500 hrs later that day (Cheryl Chia, personal communication).

Remarks: The frilly gecko was previously reported from the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve in June 2012, in the night (Chua, 2014). Grismer (2011) states that the species is nocturnal and arboreal in habits, and that they are often seen during the day sleeping on the trunks of large trees, up to 12 meters above the ground. The present observation suggests that the frilly gecko may also be active during the day, and may actively seek out areas for thermoregulation.

References:

- Chua, M. A. H., 2014. Frilly gecko at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 58.
Grismer, L. L., 2011. *Lizards of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, and their Adjacent Archipelagos. Their Description, Distribution, and Natural History*. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 728 pp.



Fig. 1. Frilly gecko about 4 m above the ground on the southern side of a tree trunk at 0730 hrs. Photograph by Marcus A. H. Chua



Fig. 2. Frilly gecko, possibly the same individual, on the same tree, at around 0930 hrs, but at a sunlit eastern position about 2 m higher than first sighting. Photograph by Marcus A. H. Chua

Contributor: Marcus A. H. **Chua**

Contact address: nhmchua@nus.edu.sg