

## Striped bronzebacks and striped kukri snake at Sungei Buloh

**Subjects:** Striped bronzeback, *Dendrelaphis caudolineatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Serpentes: Colubridae);  
Striped kukri snake, *Oligodon octolineatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Serpentes: Colubridae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve; 11 July 2017; 1624-1818 hrs.

**Habitat:** Coastal secondary forest and mangrove.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observations:** Three individual snakes of two species were observed on the same day at separate but neighbouring locations within the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve -

1. At 1624 hrs, a large striped bronzeback of around 1.5 m total length was found resting on the ground along the Migratory Bird Trail close to Observation Screen 1.3 (Fig. 1).
2. At 1801 hrs, a juvenile striped bronzeback of about 50 cm total length, was encountered draped over a palm frond along Coastal trail between Tupai Hut and Fantail Pod (Fig. 2).
3. At 1818 hrs, an adult striped kukri snake of at least 60 cm total length was photographed on the concrete Coastal Trail between Fantail Pod and Visitor Centre (Fig. 3).

**Remarks:** At least 22 species of snakes are known to occur at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and they include the striped bronzeback and striped kukri snake (Anonymous, 2003: 92). However, these two species were not illustrated in the picture book on the reserve's wildlife by Chua (2010). Both snakes are widespread and common in Singapore, and frequent forest, scrubland and suburban areas. The striped bronzeback is known to be mainly arboreal and diurnal in habits, while the striped kukri snake is said to be nocturnal and semi-fossorial (Baker & Lim, 2012: 100, 106). The observations show that the striped bronzeback does descend to the ground (Fig. 1) and the striped kukri snake can be seen exposed in broad daylight (Fig. 3).

### References:

- Anonymous, 2003. *Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve - a decade of wetland conservation*. National Parks Board, Singapore. 98 pp.
- 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.
- Chua E. K., 2010. *Wetlands in a City*. Simply Green, Singapore. 176 pp.

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Fig. 1. Adult striped bronzeback at 1624 hrs.



Fig. 2. Juvenile striped bronzeback at 1801 hrs.



Fig. 3. Striped kukri snake at 1818 hrs.

Photographs by Uwe Will