

Central bearded dragon at Telok Blangah

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Subject: Central bearded dragon, *Pogona vitticeps* (Reptilia: Squamata: Agamidae).

Subject identified by: Christopher Wong Zai Fa.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Telok Blangah, Mount Faber Green, along Henderson Park Connector near junction of Henderson Road and Telok Blangah Way; 21 January 2018; morning.

Habitat: Urban parkland at road side.

Observer: Christopher Wong Zai Fa.

Observation: An adult of around 30 cm total length was observed on the ground (see accompanying picture).

Remarks: Bearded dragons are popular pets but as with most reptiles and amphibians, it is considered illegal to privately own one in Singapore (Mohan & Mahmud, 2017). The featured example appears to be a recently escaped or abandoned pet as it seems to be in good health. Of the six known species of bearded dragons, *Pogona vitticeps* appears to be the most often seen in the pet trade (Bartlett, 2006: 91). It is native to the semi-arid to arid woodlands in the interior of the eastern part of Australia. The throat or 'beard' of mature males is often black (Wilson & Swan, 2003: 330). This species is unlikely to thrive in Singapore's humid outdoor conditions.

References:

- Bartlett, R. D., 2006. *The 25 Best Reptile and Amphibian Pets*. Barron's Educational Series, Inc., Hauppauge, New York, USA. 155 pp.
- Mohan, M. & Aqil Haziq Mahmud, 2017. Dragon in an HDB flat. Exotic, cool... and illegal. *The Sunday Times*. Sunday, June 4, 2017: Insight, B4-5.
- Wilson, S. & G. Swan, 2003. *A Complete Guide to Reptiles of Australia*. New Holland Publishers (Australia) Pty. Ltd. 480 pp.



Dorso-lateral view of the subject along Henderson Park Connector. Photograph by Christopher Wong Zai Fa