

Common Malayan racer at Mandai

Fung Tze Kwan & Mary-Ruth Low

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Subject: Common Malayan racer, *Coelognathus flavolineatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Mary-Ruth Low.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Mandai Lake Rd, compound of Singapore Zoo; 11 March 2015; 0930 hrs.

Habitat: Suburban parkland.

Observer: Fung Tze Kwan.

Observation: An example of about 1 m total length was spotted in a drain filled with earth (see accompanying picture).

Remarks: This diurnal species is considered to be uncommon but widespread in Singapore. Its diet consists of rats and other smaller vertebrates, which the snake apparently kills by constriction (Baker & Lim, 2012: 98). Although it is known to inhabit forest, scrubland and rural areas (Baker & Lim, 2012: 98), a juvenile example recorded at Kent Ridge was even found inside a building (Tan, 2014: 208).

From biodiversity surveys conducted bi-annually at the grounds of the Singapore Zoo since 2014, this is the first recent record for the species there. However, Teo & Rajathurai (1997: 381) have recorded this snake (as *Elaphe flavolineata*) from the nature reserves adjacent to the zoo.

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.
- Tan S. K., 2014. Common Malayan racer at Kent Ridge. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 208.
- Teo, R. C. H. & S. Rajathurai, 1997. Mammals, reptiles and amphibians in the Nature Reserves of Singapore - diversity, abundance and distribution. *The Gardens' Bulletin, Singapore*. 49: 353-425.



Photograph by Fung Tze Kwan