

Painted bronzeback attacking four-lined tree frog at Mandai

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Subjects: Painted bronzeback, *Dendrelaphis pictus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae);
Four-lined tree frog, *Polypedates leucomystax* (Amphibia: Anura: Rhacophoridae).

Subjects identified by: Mary-Ruth Low.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Mandai Lake Road, compound of Singapore Zoo; 19 August 2013; 1300 hrs.

Habitat: Suburban parkland.

Observer: Ravan Tan.

Observation: On a concrete pavement between a building and the tram road, a painted bronzeback of about 1 m total length was observed biting onto the nape of an adult four-lined tree frog (see accompanying picture).

The observer did not stay to watch if the snake is successful in subduing and consuming the frog.



Photograph by Ravan Tan

Remarks: The painted bronzeback is commonly found in urban areas and is known to feed on lizards and frogs (Baker & Lim, 2012). A similar predation attempt by a painted bronzeback on a four-lined tree frog was recently observed on Pulau Ubin, (Zhang & Thomas, 2017: 176). At the grounds of the Singapore Zoo, Leong et al. (2009: 361) documented a painted bronzeback apparently having attacked and then abandoning a large tadpole of a green paddy frog (*Hylarana erythraea*).

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.
- Leong T. M., C. Yeong & R. Subaraj, 2009. Attempted predation on a tadpole by a painted bronzeback, *Dendrelaphis pictus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae). *Nature in Singapore*. 2: 361-364.
- Zhang X. & N. Thomas, 2017. Painted bronzeback attacking a four-lined tree frog. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2017: 176.