

## A white-spotted slug snake at Hillview Avenue

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**Subject:** White-spotted slug snake, *Pareas margaritophorus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Pareatidae).

**Subject identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Hillview Avenue; 16 March 2018; 2335 hrs.

**Habitat:** Urban parkland. Concrete pavement leading up to old railway tracks, by a grass slope.

**Observers:** Iffah Iesa and others.

**Observation:** An example of about 30 cm total length (see accompanying picture) was found crawling along the pavement. Staff of the Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES) arrived shortly after they were contacted by one of the observers. The snake was safely removed and relocated to an unknown location.

**Remarks:** This apparently non-native, generally inoffensive snake is largely nocturnal and specialises in feeding on terrestrial slugs and snails (Baker & Lim, 2012: 112). It seems to frequent disturbed and open environments, and has recently been found on Punggol Island (Tan & Lim, 2013) and along Portsdown Road (Chew, 2017).

### 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.
- Chew S. Y., 2017. White-spotted slug snake at Portsdown Road. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2017: 105.
- Tan S. K. & K. K. P. Lim, 2013. White-spotted slug snake on Punggol Island. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 8.



Dorsal view of the snake (head at left) along the concrete pavement. Photograph by Iffah Iesa