

## Malesian frog and Malayan giant frog at Bishan Park

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**Subjects:** Malesian frog, *Limnonectes malesianus* (Amphibia; Anura; Dicroglossidae);  
Malayan giant frog, *Limnonectes blythii* (Amphibia; Anura; Dicroglossidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Law Ing Sind.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Bishan Park 1; 28 January 2017; around 1700 hrs.

**Habitat:** Urban parkland along an artificial stream.

**Observer:** Law Ing Sind.

**Observation:** A single Malesian frog of about 11 cm snout-vent length was observed on the grass along an artificial stream (Fig. 1). Three examples of the Malayan giant frog, the largest about 17 cm (snout-vent length), were seen at the edges of a pond grown with lotus plants nearby. One of them is illustrated in Fig. 2.

**Remarks:** The Malayan giant frog has been observed in similar habitats outside the forest at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and the Botanic Gardens (Chan & Goh, 2010; Lim & Chua, 2014). However, the present record of a Malesian frog occurring in urban parkland is somewhat unusual as this species inhabits mature swampy forest of the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves and the Western Catchment Area (Baker & Lim, 2012). However, the location in which the individual was found was about 200-300 m away from a water-logged swampy patch of abandoned oil palm plantation at the edge of Lower Peirce Reservoir. The frog could have dispersed from that point.

This appears to be the first records of both *Limnonectes malesianus* and *Limnonectes blythii* in Bishan Park. Both the Malesian and Malayan giant frogs are relatively large anurans that grow to between 15 and 26 cm in snout-vent length. *Limnonectes malesianus* can be distinguished from *Limnonectes blythii* in having a comparatively wider head, a dark patch on the tympanum, and a thin whitish line down the mid-dorsum (Baker & Lim, 2012). The Malesian frog also has a distinct 'W' mark on its upper back (personal observation).

### 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). 120 pp.
- Chan S. H. & C. Goh, 2010. Frogs of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (Amphibia: Anura). *Nature in Singapore*. 3: 103-116.
- Lim, K. K. P. & M. A. H. Chua, 2014. Malayan giant frog at the Botanic Gardens. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 27.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of a Malesian frog at Bishan Park on 28 January 2017.



Fig. 2. Frontal view of a Malayan giant frog at Bishan Park on 28 January 2017.

Photographs by Law Ing Sind