

## A recent record of the Siamese short-limbed supple skink in Singapore

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**Subject:** Siamese short-limbed supple skink, *Lygosoma siamensis* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae).

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

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Botanic Gardens, Cluny Park Gate; 16 March 2019, around 1930 hrs.

**Habitat:** Suburban parkland.

**Observers:** Jonathan K. I. Ho & Huang Xiaowen.

**Observation:** An example of about 10-11 cm total length was spotted exposed on the ground in the middle of a metaled road. A dorsal view of the lizard in-situ is shown in the accompanying photograph.

**Remarks:** The short-limbed supple skink was recorded in Singapore since 1847, but it was not reported from the country again until February 2016, when a specimen was found in the Singapore Botanic Gardens (Lim, 2016 as *Lygosoma quadrupes*). The featured individual, discovered nearby within the same area, appears to be the second recent record of this species in Singapore. This example appears to have an intact tail, as it seems to be about as long as the trunk, in comparison with the one observed in 2016. This record suggests that there is a population of this small and cryptic lizard in the gardens. However, it is still uncertain if this is a remnant population or one which was recently introduced to Singapore via the horticultural trade (see Lim, 2016).

Siler et al (2018) recently found that lizards from Indochina and the Malay Peninsula previously identified as *Lygosoma quadrupes* are a different species from *Lygosoma quadrupes* from the type locality in Java. They named it *Lygosoma siamensis*, while restricting *Lygosoma quadrupes* to Java. From a biogeographical perspective, the skinks from Singapore, if assumed to be native, should be *Lygosoma siamensis*.

### References:

- Lim L. J., 2016. Short-limbed supple skink at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2016: 68.
- Siler, C. D., B. B. Heitz, D. R. Davis, E. S. Freitas, A. Aowphol, K. Termprayoon & L. L. Grismer, 2018. New supple skink, genus *Lygosoma* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae), from Indochina and redescription of *Lygosoma quadrupes* (Linnaeus, 1766). *Journal of Herpetology*. 52 (3): 332-347.



Photograph by Jonathan K. I. Ho