Striped tree skink at Mandai

Webster Cheong

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Subject identified by: Webster Cheong.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Mandai Lake Road, compound of Night Safari; 5 September 2019; 1130 hrs.

Habitat: Artificial cave surrounded by secondary forest.

Observer: Webster Cheong

Observation: An individual of approximately 8 cm total length was seen climbing the wall of an artificial cave about 1 m off the ground. The accompanying picture shows it with its body oriented towards the ground with its head tilted up to watch the observer. However, it was wary and ascended the wall out of the observer’s sight in less than a minute.

Remarks: The striped tree skink is native to Singapore where it has been recorded in the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves. Because it is rarely seen, it is regarded as locally uncommon (Baker & Lim, 2012: 85). The species was recently recorded at the Dairy Farm Nature Park (Chan, 2014).

Being adjacent to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, and still retaining a good amount of natural vegetation on its grounds, it should not be unusual to encounter this forest lizard roaming wild in the Night Safari.

References:

Photograph by Webster Cheong