

Biodiversity Record: Spotted house gecko at the edge of a mangrove forest

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Subject: Spotted house gecko, *Gekko monarchus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkonidae).

Subject identified by: Isaac Seow-En.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Pasir Ris Park; 12 May 2021; 2230 hrs.

Habitat: Edge of a small patch of mangrove forest surrounded by urban parkland.

Observer: Isaac Seow-En.

Observation: A spotted house gecko of approximately 20 cm total length was observed amongst vegetation adjacent to a boardwalk. It was on a leaf about one metre off the ground, and had caught a newly moulted raspy cricket (Insecta: Orthoptera: Ensifera: Gryllacrididae). The cricket was still alive when first observed, but eventually ceased movement in under a minute (Fig. 1).

Remarks: This record is interesting in that the gecko was found among vegetation at the margins of a mangrove forest. According to Baker & Lim (2012: 81), *Gekko monarchus* in Singapore inhabits disturbed forest, scrubland and parkland. It is to some extent commensal with humans and does occur in buildings. In wooded habitats, it is more likely to be found on concrete structures such as drain culverts. *Gekko monarchus* is capable of preying on large insects, but in the featured event, the cricket was easily subdued as its body was still soft after having very recently moulted. Although generally regarded as insectivorous, this gecko has been known to feed on banana flower nectar (Baker & Lim, 2012: 73), and surprisingly, on white bread (Weterings & Weterings, 2018).

Literature cited:

Baker N & Lim KKP (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), Singapore, 180 pp.

Weterings R & Weterings P (2018) Observations of the warty house gecko, *Gekko monarchus* (Schlegel, 1836), feeding on bread. Herpetology Notes, 11: 319–320.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of *Gekko monarchus* preying on a newly moulted cricket. (Photograph by: Isaac Seow-En).