

Biodiversity Record: A dead masked palm civet along the Pan-Island Expressway

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Subject: Masked palm civet, *Paguma larvata* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Viverridae).

Subject identified by: Pamela Ng and Gabriel Cai Ruixiong.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Adam Road entrance of Pan-Island Expressway towards Tuas; 14 April 2019; 0040 hrs.

Habitat: Urban motorway flanked by suburban housing and secondary forest.

Observers: Pamela Ng and Gabriel Cai Ruixiong.

Observation: An adult male example was retrieved dead on the tarmac of the motorway by the Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES) Wildlife Rescue Team (Figs. 1, 2). A scan of the animal (Fig. 3) showed that it did not have a microchip implant.

The carcass was brought to Mandai Wildlife Group for examination, and was of reasonably good body condition (body condition score 4/9). On necropsy, there were no obvious significant external lesions (Fig. 4). Severe subcutaneous haemorrhage was found in the region of the abdomen. The heart was ruptured and the lungs were severely haemorrhagic. These findings are consistent with severe trauma, such as that sustained in a motor vehicle accident.

Remarks: In Singapore, the masked palm civet is regarded as a ‘critically endangered’ species based on two sighting records: one on Pulau Tekong in 1990, and the other in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve in 1993 (Lim et al., 2008: 200). Chua et al. (2012: 3) suggest an ‘indeterminate’ status for this species because the Tekong record cannot be verified, and no one can ascertain if the animal observed in the Central Catchment was not a former captive that originated from outside Singapore.

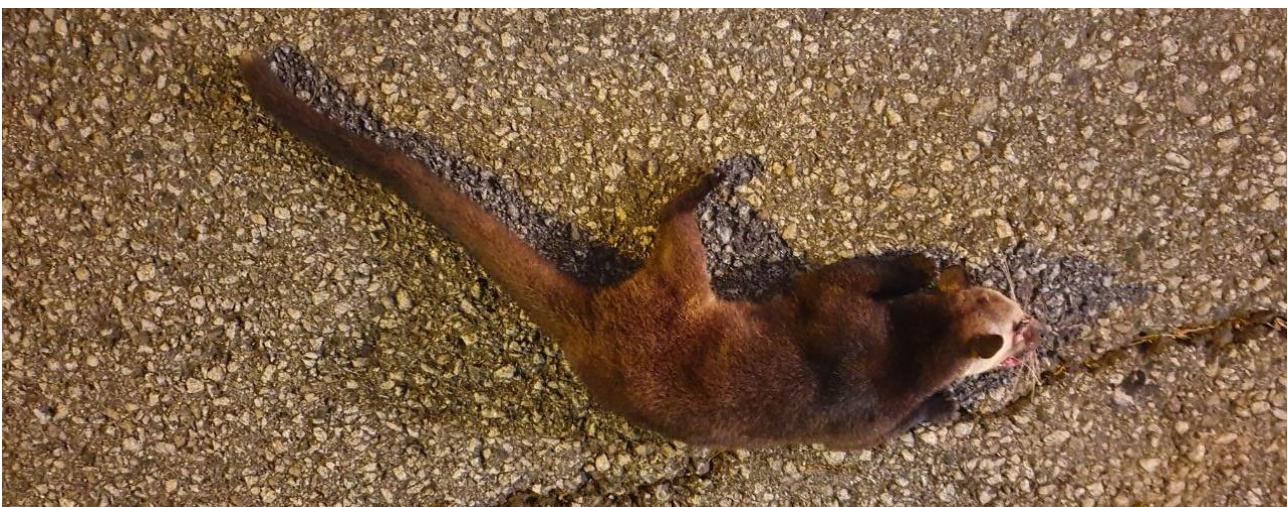


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the dead masked palm civet on the tarmac of a motorway, in situ. (Photograph by: Pamela Ng).



Fig. 2. Frontal view of the masked palm civet, in situ. (Photograph by: Pamela Ng).



Fig. 3. Frontal view of the masked palm civet after retrieval and while being scanned for microchip implant. (Photograph by: Pamela Ng).



Fig. 4. Right lateral external view of the masked palm civet before necropsy. No significant external lesions were observed. Scale rule = 5 cm. (Photograph by: Chia Da Hsu).

The specimen herein featured does not provide evidence that a wild population of masked palm civets is extant in Singapore. A microchip implant not being detected in the animal decreases the likelihood of it being an escapee from a zoological institution. However, that does not exclude the possibility of it being an illegally imported escapee from a private collection.

Note: The featured animal was discovered by Pamela Ng and Gabriel Cai Ruixiong. We are grateful to them for reporting this significant find to ACRES.

Literature cited:

Chua MAH, Lim KKP & Low CHS (2012) The diversity and status of the civets (Viverridae) of Singapore. *Small Carnivore Conservation*, 47: 1–10.
Lim KKP, Subaraj R, Yeo SH, Lim N, Lane D & Lee BYH (2008) Mammals. In: Davison GWH, Ng PKL & Ho HC (eds.) *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore. Second Edition.* Nature Society (Singapore), Singapore, pp. 190–207.