

Biodiversity Record: Paradise gliding snake preying on spotted house gecko

Thio Hui Bing

Marine Parade, Singapore 449294; Email: staad3@yahoo.com

Recommended citation. Thio HB (2021) Biodiversity Record: Paradise gliding snake preying on spotted house gecko. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021132. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2021-0132

Subjects: Paradise gliding snake, *Chrysopelea paradisi* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae);
Spotted house gecko, *Gekko monarchus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkonidae).

Subjects identified by: Thio Hui Bing and Alex Figueroa.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Mount Faber Road; 8 October 2021; 1055–1100 hrs.

Habitat: Edge of secondary forest. At the roadside, on a stretch of retaining wall overgrown with vegetation.

Observer: Thio Hui Bing.

Observation: A paradise tree snake of about 70 cm total length was observed restraining a spotted house gecko in its coils and eating it head first (Fig. 1). The observer did not stay long enough to ascertain if the entire lizard was consumed by the snake.



Fig. 1. A, in situ lateral view of a paradise tree snake restraining the hindquarters of a spotted house gecko in its coils and grasping the gecko's head in its mouth; B, the snake in the process of consuming the gecko. Note the characteristic markings on the dorsal surface of the gecko's body and tail. (Photographs by: Thio Hui Bing).

Remarks: *Chrysopelea paradisi* is a common snake in Singapore (Baker & Lim, 2012). It feeds largely on lizards, and examples in the wild have been documented taking the spiny-tailed house gecko, *Hemidactylus frenatus* (Morgany, 2018), and the changeable lizard, *Calotes versicolor* (Tan & Chapman, 2019). *Gekko monarchus* is herein added to the list of prey species consumed by this snake.

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., Singapore, 180 pp.

Morgany T (2018) Paradise gliding snake eating house gecko. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2018: 136–137.

Tan SH & Chapman H (2019) Paradise gliding snakes preying on lizards. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2019: 67–69.