

Biodiversity Record: Barred kukri snake in Bukit Batok Nature Park

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Subject: Barred kukri snake, *Oligodon signatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Law Ingg Thong and Law Ing Sind.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Batok Nature Park; 13 August 2021; around 2100 hrs.

Habitat: Young secondary forest.

Observers: Timothy Pwee, Gloria Seow, Benjamin Lee, Christian Hut, Law Ing Sind and Law Ingg Thong.

Observation: One example of about 40 cm in total length was noted by the side of a footpath less than a metre from a lamp post. It was first seen moving on the ground then retreating into leaf litter (Fig 1). The entire snake was exposed after some leaves were removed (Fig. 2). About 45 minutes later, the snake was observed about 2 m away from its original position trying to enter a burrow.



Fig 1. Barred kukri snake in the leaf litter at Bukit Batok Nature Park, with some parts of its body exposed. (Photograph by: Gloria Seow).



Fig. 2. Dorsal view of the barred kukri snake after some leaves were removed to expose it. (Photograph by: Timothy Pwee).

Remarks: This is the first known record of *Oligodon signatus* in Bukit Batok Nature Park. However, in the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore, there is a specimen (ZRC 2.4842) that was collected on 12 January 2000 from Hume Heights, a condominium complex next to Bukit Batok Nature Park. Published records of the barred kukri snake in Singapore are restricted to the forests of the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves (Lim et al., 2008: 164; Xu & Teo, 2013; Thomas & Chua, 2014; Law & Groenewoud, 2015).

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