

Biodiversity Record: Third recent record of white-spotted cat snake in Singapore

Koh Ke Han

Potong Pasir Ave 1, Singapore 350121; Email: kohkehan@hotmail.com

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Subject: White-spotted cat snake, *Boiga drapiezii* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Koh Ke Han.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, north-western edge of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve; 22 January 2022, 2230 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest by a footpath.

Observer: Koh Ke Han.

Observation: An individual was found coiled and appeared to be asleep on a branch at about 1.8 m above the forest floor. When approached closer, the snake became alert and exhibited strong muscle control among the foliage, being able to extend its neck to great lengths. It measured about 1 m in total length and had a bulbous head and extremely slender neck in contrast to its body (Figs. 1–5). The snake was also able to vertically raise its slender neck to great heights. It did not exhibit any sign of aggression towards the observer, and at times even seemed to be curious, stretching its neck out towards the camera. Its large round pupils contracted into a vertical slit likely in response to the camera flashes (Fig. 5). Shortly after, the snake made its way high into the canopy.



Fig. 1. Fronto-lateral view of the snake's head and body, in-situ. Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of the snake's head with tongue extended. Fig. 3. Frontal view of the snake's head. Fig. 4. Side view of the snake's mid-section. (Photographs by: Koh Ke Han)



Fig. 5. Latero-ventral view of the snake's head and anterior body, with pupils contracted into a vertical slit. (Photograph by: Koh Ke Han)

Remarks: The white-spotted cat snake was rediscovered in Singapore in the Nee Soon Swamp Forest in 2009 (Leong et al., 2009). The second recent individual was found nearby at Upper Seletar in 2016 (Thomas et al., 2016). The present and apparently third recent Singapore record, which is from a different part of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, shows that this locally rare snake is not confined to a small area in the reserve.

Literature cited:

Leong TM, Lim KKP & Baker N (2009) Rediscovery of the white-spotted cat snake, *Boiga drapiezii* in Singapore (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae). *Nature in Singapore*, 2: 487–493.
Thomas N, Serin R & Law IS (2016) Second recent record of a white-spotted cat snake in Singapore. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*, 2016: 1–2.