

Biodiversity Record: Golden gliding snake at Ang Mo Kio

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Subject: Golden gliding snake, *Chrysopelea ornata* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Emmanuel Goh.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, residential estate between the eastern part of Yio Chu Kang Road and Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5; 21 March 2022, 2011 hrs.

Habitat: Urban. In a three-storey concrete residential building.

Observers: Emmanuel Goh and Joyce Pek.

Observation: An example of about 110 cm was spotted entering the living room of a landed property in the afternoon. It was subsequently discovered inside a drawer in the living room in the evening. While relocating the snake out of the house, several eggs could be felt in its body.

Remarks: This appears to be the first record of *Chrysopelea ornata* in the north-eastern region of Singapore Island. Previously recorded in the southern and north-western parts of the island, this species is believed to be non-native in the country, possibly introduced through the pet trade or the ornamental plant trade (Thomas & Boopal, 2014; Maury & Low, 2015; Law & Chin, 2017; Chua, 2021). The present encounter with a gravid female suggests that this species is capable of reproducing in Singapore, and that it is spreading throughout the island, albeit in urban environments.

Literature cited:

Chua J (2021) Biodiversity Record: Golden gliding snakes at Marina Bay. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021120. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2021-0120

Law IS & Chin K (2017) Golden gliding snake at Marina South. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2017: 14.

Maury N & Low M-R (2015) Golden gliding snake at Lim Chu Kang. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2015: 76.

Thomas N & Boopal A (2014) Golden gliding snake at Shenton Way. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2014: 51.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the head and anterior body of the snake shortly after removal from the drawer. (Photograph by: Emmanuel Goh)