

Biodiversity Record: Red-tailed pipe snakes in Mandai area

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Subjects: Red-tailed pipe snake, *Cylindrophis ruffus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Cylindrophidae).

Subjects identified by: Carmen Choong and Ivan Kwan.

Location, date and time: Two adjacent locations on Singapore Island —

1) Mandai Road, about 10 m before junction with Mandai Lake Road, towards Woodlands Road; 24 December 2020; around 0900 hrs.

2) Construction site near junction of Mandai Road and Mandai Lake Road; 18 March 2021; around 0830 hrs.

Habitat: Road parallel to secondary forest and construction site adjacent to secondary forest.

Observers: Carmen Choong, Lim Zong Xian and Chan Jie Yi.

Observations: Two separate observations —

1) One dead individual (Fig. 1) of approximately 30 cm total length, likely a roadkill, was found flattened on the road.

2) A live individual (Fig. 2) of about 36–40 cm total length and weighing 24 grams, was found in a construction site. It was relocated to the adjacent forest of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve.



Fig. 1. Flattened example from Mandai Road. Fig. 2. Live individual from construction site. (Photographs by: Carmen Choong)

Remarks: The red-tailed pipe snake is a sub-fossorial species that inhabits wet lowland forests and agricultural land where it is known to feed on snakes, eels and frogs (Charlton, 2020: 59). It is native to Singapore where it has been regarded as ‘widespread but rare’ (Baker & Lim, 2012: 160). Some relatively recent records of this species in Singapore include dead individuals at Neo Tiew Lane 2 around 2012 (Anonymous, 2012) and along Island Country Club Road in 1995 (Lim et al., 2000: 13).

Literature cited:

Anonymous (2012) Singapore Snakes. Singapore Wild Animals, Biodiversity from microscopic to mammals. 28 December 2012. <http://sgwildanimals.blogspot.com/2012/12/suborder-sepentes.html> (Accessed on 15 August 2022)

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Lim K, Subaraj R & Teo R (2000 [1995]) Records for 1995. The Pangolin, 8: 10–30.