

Biodiversity Record: A brown kukri snake at MacRitchie forest

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Subject: Brown kukri snake, *Oligodon purpurascens* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Law Ing Sind and Emmanuel Goh.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, MacRitchie forest, Terentang Trail, 27 July 2022, around 1141 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observers: Adeline Y. H. Goh and others.

Observation: One example of about 30 cm total length was observed slithering across the trail. It entered a small opening at the base of a tree trunk, and was no longer visible to the observers. It was a sunny day with no rain.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the head and anterior body of the snake. Fig. 2. Dorsal view of the head and anterior body. Fig. 3. Lateral view of the tail. (Photographs by: Adeline Y. H. Goh)

Remarks: The brown kukri snake appears to be uncommon in Singapore where it seems to be restricted to the forests of the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves. The colour pattern on this species is known to be highly variable, and the featured individual has markings that seem to be intermediate between the red and brown morphs illustrated in Baker & Lim (2012: 105).

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 Nature Society (Singapore), Singapore, 180 pp.