

Biodiversity Record: A Sunda slow loris at the forest edge

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Subject: Sunda slow loris, *Nycticebus coucang* (Mammalia: Primates: Lorisidae).

Subject identified by: Choo Ruirong and Ong Junxiang Lumin.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, north-eastern edge; 14 October 2023; around 2120–2320 hrs.

Habitat: Edge of secondary forest, by a metaled road.

Observers: Choo Ruirong, Ong Junxiang Lumin, Jerome Loke, Shashidar Pillai, Lee Yeow Peng and Laura Yap.

Observation: A slow loris was found foraging about 5 m above the ground in the thick canopy of a sea almond tree. It moved about largely on the same tree for the next two hours. Screenshot from a video clip obtained of the animal seems to suggest that it is a male (Fig. 1) and also shows a distinct dark mid-dorsal stripe on its back (Fig. 2). At one point, the loris was observed to descend quickly head first down the tree trunk. On another occasion, it was seen capturing with its hand, an unidentified prey, probably an insect, flying in front of it.



Fig. 1. Fronto-lateral view of the subject crawling on a horizontal tree branch. The bulge at its groin seems to suggest that the animal is a male. Fig. 2. Dorsal view of subject moving on the underside of a branch with head pointing to the left of the picture, showing its dark mid-dorsal stripe (Screenshot from a video clip recorded by: Ong Junxiang Lumin).

Remarks: This is not the only instance where slow lorises were observed at the edge of the forest. In 2005, one was apparently hit and killed by a vehicle along Mandai Road on the Ulu Sembawang side (Chan, 2014). In 2015, one was seen on a rain tree (*Albizia saman*) in scrubland at the western part of Mandai (Law & Groenewoud, 2015). In 2021, a slow loris was photographed along Old Upper Thomson Road (Chua, 2021). In Singapore, *Nycticebus coucang* is classified as an ‘endangered’ species in version three of the Singapore Red Data Book (see <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/biodiversity/wildlife-in-singapore/species-list/mammal>).

Literature cited:

Chan SY (2014) Sunda slow loris carcass along Mandai Road. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2014: 283–284.
Chua J (2021) Biodiversity Record: A Sunda slow loris at Upper Thomson. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021100.
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