

Biodiversity Record: Striped sun skink, *Eutropis rugifera*, at Bukit Batok Nature Park

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Subject: Striped sun skink, *Eutropis rugifera* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae).

Subject identified by: Law Ing Sin.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Batok Nature Park; 22 May 2024; around 1620 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observer: Chan Kwok Wai.

Observation: One example of about 16 cm total length was observed on the trunk of a tree around 2.5 m off the ground (Fig. 1).

Remarks: This is an uncommon lizard in Singapore, which was previously thought to be restricted to the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves (see Figueroa et al., 2023). The present record represents the first outside the nature reserves.

Striped sun skinks usually have distinct yellow stripes and spots on their backs (see photographs in Baker & Lim, 2012; Figueroa et al., 2023, fig. 14H). The individual herein featured appears to lack the dorsal stripes, but has the small whitish bands on its tail similar to that on the striped forms. Unicoloured brown individuals like this have been observed just across the Causeway, in Johor, Malaysia (e.g., Grismer, 2011).

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), 180 pp.

Figueroa A, Low MEY & Lim KKP (2023) Singapore's herpetofauna: updated and annotated checklist, history, conservation, and distribution. Zootaxa, 5287(1): 1–378.

Grismer LL (2011) Lizards of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, and their Adjacent Archipelagos. Their description, distribution, and Natural History. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main, 728 pp.



Fig. 1. Dorsal-lateral view of the subject in-situ (Photograph by: Chan Kwok Wai).