

Clouded monitor lizard eating garden supple skink

Subjects: Clouded monitor, *Varanus nebulosus* (Reptilia: Sauria: Varanidae).
Garden supple skink, *Lygosoma bowringi* (Reptilia: Sauria: Scincidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Pulau Ubin, in compound of Outward Bound School Camp I; 22 October 2012; 1130 hrs.

Habitat: Grass lawn by concrete buildings and coastal forest.

Observers: Contributor, with Zeehan Jafaar and Helen K. Larson.

Observation: A juvenile clouded monitor of about 30 cm total length was observed on the ground among short lawn grass. Upon closer inspection, the monitor was found with a garden supple skink of around 6 cm total length. The prey was held by the head in the monitor's mouth and still twitching about (indicated by white arrows in pictures below). The skink was swallowed head first within a minute.

Remarks: The clouded monitor feeds on small animals that are often located by digging into the substrate (Baker & Lim, 2012). It is presumed that the monitor in the present observation had pulled the skink out from among the grass.

Reference: Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes*. Updated edition. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.



Photographs by Kelvin K. P. Lim

Contributor: Kelvin K. P. Lim
Contact address: dbslimkp@nus.edu.sg