

## Spotted house gecko laying eggs

**Subject:** Spotted house gecko, *Gekko monarchus* (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae).

**Subject identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Nee Soon swamp-forest; 3 October 2010; 1007 hrs.

**Habitat:** Concrete pipeline along grassy trail bordered by secondary forest.

**Observer:** Tan Siong Kiat.

**Observation:** A spotted house gecko of about 15 cm total length and with regenerated tail, was observed having deposited a clutch of two white spherical eggs. These were stuck to a concrete pillar that supports a large water-carrying pipe.

**Remarks:** *Gekko monarchus* is widespread in Singapore, and is one of the house-dwelling geckoes. In wooded habitats, it tends to be found on concrete structures (Baker & Lim, 2012: 81). In accordance with the featured observation, two eggs are laid per clutch, attached to rock crevices. Communal nesting is known in this species, with 50 or more eggs being deposited at one spot by many individuals; and the incubation period is 120 days (Das, 2010: 219).

### References:

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.

Das, I., 2010. *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 376 pp.



Photograph by Tan Siong Kiat

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