

Golden gliding snake at Shenton Way

Subject: Golden gliding snake, *Chrysopelea ornata ornatissima* (Reptilia: Sauria: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Noel Thomas.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Shenton Way; 14 May 2013.

Habitat: Urban. Found at building construction site.

Observers: Anbarasi Boopal and others.

Observation: One example of 106.6 cm total length (Fig.1) was found dead at a construction site, possibly killed by workers.

Remarks: The specimen has been preserved and catalogued as ZRC 2.7022 in the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the National University of Singapore. The golden gliding snake is not native to Singapore. *Chrysopelea ornata* is found in India and Sri Lanka eastwards to the Indochinese region, and south to the northern Malay Peninsula (Das, 2010: 272). It is similar in appearance to the native paradise gliding snake (*Chrysopelea paradisi*), but distinguishable by having a black longitudinal line on every dorsal scale (Fig. 2). The present individual is believed to be an abandoned or escaped pet that may have been illegally imported.

References:

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



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of entire snake.



Fig. 2. Markings on dorsal scales (snake head pointing up).

Photographs by Noel Thomas

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