

## Keel-bellied whip snake at NTU Jurong Campus

**Subject:** Keel-bellied whip snake, *Dryophiops rubescens* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

**Subject identified by:** Marcus A. H. Chua.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Jurong Campus off Jalan Bahar, Hall of Residence 10 (adjacent to Western Catchment Area); 3 Nov 2013; 1500 hrs.

**Habitat:** Built up area adjacent to secondary forest.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** A keel-bellied whip snake of about 50 cm total length was found in the shoe cupboard outside a hostel room. The snake was relocated to the adjacent forested area.

**Remarks:** The keel-bellied whip snake is listed as nationally 'critically endangered' (Lim, 2008: 264). It inhabits mature forest in the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong (Baker & Lim, 2012: 102). This is apparently the first record of this species from the western part of Singapore Island.

### 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.

Lim, K. K. P., 2008. Checklists of threatened species. Fishes, amphibians and reptiles. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho. (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. Second edition. Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 263-266.



Photograph by Chua Wei Ming

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