

## Twin-barred gliding snake preying on spotted house gecko

**Subjects:** Twin-barred gliding snake, *Chrysopelea pelias* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).  
Spotted house gecko, *Gekko monarchus* (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae).

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

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Nee Soon swamp-forest; 3 October 2010; 1010 hrs.

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

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** A twin-barred gliding snake of about 60 cm total length was observed in the act of swallowing a spotted house gecko (about 12 cm total length) that it had presumably subdued and killed. The anterior part of the snake and the prey was suspended about 2 m off the ground, while the posterior section of the snake held onto ledges on the concrete structure. The snake managed to swallow the entire lizard in about 30 minutes.

**Remarks:** A similar observation involving the same species of predator and prey was recorded by Leong & Foo (2009) in a building at a nearby location within the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. Although the snake managed to kill its prey possibly with a combination of constriction and envenomation, it did not succeed in swallowing the lizard, which was relatively large. While the event featured here was observed in the morning, the predation in the previous sighting occurred in the night at around 2300 hrs.

**Reference:** Leong T. M. & S. K. Foo, 2009. Attempted predation on a large gecko by a twin-barred tree snake, *Chrysopelea pelias* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae). *Nature in Singapore*. 2: 311-316.



Photograph by Tan Siong Kiat

Contributor: **Tan Siong Kiat**  
Contact address: [dbtsk@nus.edu.sg](mailto:dbtsk@nus.edu.sg)