

## Banded file snake at Pasir Ris mangroves

**Subject:** Banded file snake, *Acrochordus granulatus* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Acrochordidae).

**Subject identified by:** Noel Thomas.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Pasir Ris Park, mangrove forest along Sungei Tampines; 3 July 2014; 2021hrs.

**Habitat:** Mangrove forest, on sandy substrate at 1.1 m low tide.

**Observers:** Contributors.

**Observation:** A dead specimen with missing head, and total length of about 81 cm, was found on the floor of the mangrove forest floor (see accompanying photograph). It appears to have been fed on by another animal.

**Remarks:** The largely aquatic banded file snake is uncommon but known from many estuarine and marine localities in Singapore, both in the Johor Straits and in the Singapore Straits (Baker & Lim, 2012: 92). It has even been found in freshwater at Lower Seletar Reservoir (Ng, 2011: 91). Although expected from the small patch of mangrove at Pasir Ris, a location well-known for harbouring four species of homalopsid water snakes (see Karns et al., 2002), the present sighting seems to be the first published record from there.

### 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). 92 pp.
- Karns, D. R., H. K. Voris & T. G. Goodwin, 2002. Ecology of Oriental-Australian rear-fanged water snakes (Colubridae: Homalopsinae) in the Pasir Ris Park mangrove forest, Singapore. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. 50 (2): 487-498.
- Ng T. H., 2011. A record of the banded file snake, *Acrochordus granulatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Acrochordidae) in a freshwater habitat in Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*. 4: 91-93.



Photograph by Noel Thomas

Contributors: Noel **Thomas**, Gina **Barnett** & Anders **Zimny**  
Contact address: [noelthomas82@gmail.com](mailto:noelthomas82@gmail.com) (Thomas)