

Sambar at Mandai

Subjects: Sambar, *Rusa unicolor* (Mammalia: Artiodactyla: Cervidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, forest west of Mandai Lake Road; 4 & 8 January 2011; night.

Habitat: Young secondary forest and scrub vegetation.

Observers: Contributor & Celine H. S. Low.

Observations: A large solitary buck, about 1.3 m shoulder height, was observed among vegetation on 4 January 2011 at night (see accompanying photograph). He gave out a loud yelping sound before disappearing into the undergrowth. Four days later, on 8 January 2011, an adult doe was sighted. She stood at about 1.1 m shoulder height.

Remarks: There is a small population of sambar residing in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. Although there is a chance that these could be native animals that managed to elude game hunters and survive massive deforestation on Singapore Island, it seems more likely that they were descended from animals that had escaped from the Singapore Zoo (see Chua & Lim, 2011).

Reference: Chua, M. A. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2011. Deer. In: Ng, P. K. L., R. T. Corlett & H. T. W. Tan (eds.). *Singapore Biodiversity: An Encyclopedia of the Natural environment and Sustainable Development*. Editions Didier Millet with the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Singapore. p. 290.



Sambar buck on the evening of 4 January 2011. Photograph by Marcus A. H. Chua

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