

Striped sun skink basking at Thomson Ridge

Subject: Striped sun skink, *Eutropis rugifera* (Reptilia: Sauria: Scincidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, MacRitchie forest at Thomson Ridge; 29 June 2014; 1410 hrs.

Habitat: Primary lowland dipterocarp forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: An example of about 15 cm total length was photographed basking on the trunk of a tree at about 2.2 m off the ground. As the sun was nearly overhead, the lizard tilted itself upwards against the trunk by stretching out its left fore and hind limbs such that the dorsal surface of its body and head is fully exposed to the sunlight (see accompanying picture). Note that the lizard had also flattened its body considerably, broadening the surface area on its torso, presumably to maximise the body area to the sunlight.

Remarks: The basking behaviour of this arboreal lizard is of interest in the present observation. The subject seemed to have deliberately orientated and contorted its body in such a way as to obtain maximum exposure to the sunlight. *Eutropis rugifera* is regarded as an endangered species in Singapore where it seems to be confined to the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (Lim et al., 2008: 168, as *Eutropis rugiferus*).

Reference: Lim, K. K. P., N. Baker, R. Teo & T. M. Leong, 2008. 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. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 160-176.



Photograph by Marcus A. H. Chua

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