

## Paradise gliding snake carcass at urban Choa Chu Kang

**Subject:** Paradise gliding snake, *Chrysopelea paradisi* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Choa Chu Kang Street 64; 9 August 2014; 0840 hrs.

**Habitat:** Urban parkland next to a high-rise housing estate. Along the grass verge of a road, under a yellow flame tree.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** The mangled remains of an individual, estimated to be about 50 cm total length, were found. These consist of two lengths of the body, including an intact tail; and parts of the anterior portion which appeared chewed up (see accompanying picture). The remains were relatively fresh, with neither foul odour nor maggots.

**Remarks:** *Chrysopelea paradisi* is a common arboreal snake that is found throughout Singapore, including urban areas. This species is capable of gliding from tree to tree, and mainly feeds on lizards and small birds (Baker & Lim, 2008). The masticated state of the featured carcass suggests predation by an animal, possibly a cat. The predator could have been interrupted midway through the feed, causing the prey to be abandoned.

**Reference:** 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.



The mangled remains of a paradise gliding snake with arrow pointing at one of its eyes. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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