

Dwarf reed snakes on Pulau Ubin

Subjects: Dwarf reed snake, *Pseudorabdion longiceps* (Reptilia; Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subjects identified by: Mary-Ruth Low & Fung Tze Kwan.

Location, date and time: Pulau Ubin, at Bukit Surau and Outward Bound School Camp I; 6 March 2014 & 12 March 2014.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: Two separate records over six days of two individuals found dead on trails in two different patches of secondary forest. Both specimens have been collected and deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore.

- 1) On 6 March 2014 at 1129 hrs, a dead example of 166 mm total length (ZRC 2.7089) was found on a gravel track on Bukit Surau (Fig. 1).
- 2) On 12 March 2014 at 1615 hrs, a dead and desiccated specimen of 155 mm total length (ZRC 2.7090) was found along a dirt road within Camp I of the Outward Bound School (OBS) (Fig. 2).

Remarks: The dwarf reed snake was first recorded (but not published) from Pulau Ubin on 16 February 2009 by Andrew Tay and Vilma D’Rozario. The specimens featured here are the second and third records from the island. This nocturnal species inhabits the leaf litter in forest and scrubland (Baker & Lim, 2012). The drought in the early part of 2014, which caused the drying up of the forest floor, is thought to have driven this leaf litter inhabitant out into the open to seek more moist conditions.

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.



Fig. 1. ZRC 2.7089 from Bt Surau.



Fig. 2. ZRC 2.7090 from OBS Camp I.

Photographs by Fung Tze Kwan

Contributors: Noel **Thomas**, Hazelina H. T. **Yeo**, **Fung** Tze Kwan & Mary-Ruth **Low**
Contact address: noelthomas82@gmail.com (Thomas)