

Shrew-faced squirrel at Bukit Timah

Subject: Shrew-faced squirrel, *Rhinosciurus laticaudatus* (Mammalia: Rodentia: Sciuridae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Quarry Road; 10 February 2014; 0909 hrs.

Habitat: Primary and old secondary rainforest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: An example with a body length of about 20 cm was spotted about 2 m off the ground, chewing on a small palm-like plant close to the edge of the trail. The squirrel is clinging to the stem of the plant in the centre of the attached picture, which is extracted from a video footage recorded by the contributor. The video can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/j-xhx-uwuJk>.

Remarks: The shrew-faced squirrel is rarely seen in Singapore. Since 2010, there are a few records from the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, and the Central Catchment Nature Reserve at the Upper Peirce, Chestnut and Sime forests (Lim & Yeo, 2012). The featured animal appears to be foraging for insects and other invertebrates living inside the plant.

Reference: Lim, N. T-L. & A. W. M. Yeo, 2012. Records of the shrew-faced squirrel, *Rhinosciurus laticaudatus* (Mammalia: Rodentia: Sciuridae) in Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*. 5: 165-170.



Photograph by David Tan Jian Xiong

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