

Red-tailed racer at Mandai

Subject: Red-tailed racer, *Gonyosoma oxycephalum* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, western area of Mandai; 14 March 2015; 2145 hrs.

Habitat: Edge of secondary forest.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: An individual of about 1 m total length, was seen coiled on a branch in the canopy of a tree at around 3.5 m from the ground. The middle part of its body appears distended, suggesting that the snake had recently eaten. It is illustrated in the attached picture.

Remarks: The red-tailed racer is regarded as an 'endangered' species in Singapore (Lim, 2008: 265). This arboreal species is locally known only from the forests of the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves, as well as on Pulau Tekong (Baker & Lim, 2012: 103). The site where the snake was observed may be used for development in the near future.

References:

- 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.
- Lim, K. K. P., 2008. Checklists of threatened species: Fishes, amphibians and reptiles. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. pp. 263-266.



Photograph by David Groenewoud

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