

## Striped keelback eating Asian toad

**Subjects:** Striped keelback, *Xenochrophis vittatus* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Natricidae);  
Asian toad, *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (Amphibia: Anura: Bufonidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Jalan Bahtera in compound of Sarimbun Scout Camp; 9 December 2014; around 1600 hrs.

**Habitat:** Suburban parkland.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** A striped keelback of about 70 cm total length was found freshly dead and in the middle of swallowing an Asian toad. The accompanying picture shows the anterior part of the dead snake with the hind limbs of the toad sticking out of its mouth.

**Remarks:** The striped keelback is an introduced species in Singapore where it inhabits rural and suburban areas. It is known to feed on frogs and small fishes (Baker & Lim, 2012: 114). The present observation confirms that it also eats toads. The cause of the snake's death is unknown.

**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 & Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore).



Photograph by Erwin Chan

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