

Black-headed collared snake at Upper Peirce Reservoir Park

Subject: Black-headed collared snake, *Sibynophis melanocephalus* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Noel Thomas.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Upper Peirce Reservoir Park; 19 April 2015; around 1830 hrs.

Habitat: Metaled road adjacent to secondary forest.

Observers: Lee Hsien Loong, with Ho Ching.

Observation: The snake was observed in the middle of the road. It was approximately 60 cm in length, had its head in the air, and stayed motionless for several minutes while its picture was taken.

Remarks: The apparently non-venomous *Sibynophis melanocephalus* occurs in forest and scrubland. In Singapore, it has been found in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Western Catchment Area and on Pulau Tekong (Baker & Lim, 2012: 108). The present record is noteworthy as this species is rarely seen, and is regarded as nationally endangered (Lim, 2008: 265).

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 & Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore).
- 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*. Second edition. Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 263-266.



Photograph by Lee Hsien Loong

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