

## Golden gliding snake at Lim Chu Kang

**Subject:** Golden gliding snake, *Chrysopelea ornata* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

**Subject identified by:** Nathanaël Maury.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Lim Chu Kang, Perahu Lane; 14 April 2015; 1100 hrs.

**Habitat:** Urban. Parkland vegetation on side of road.

**Observer:** Nathanaël Maury.

**Observation:** A live individual with a total length of approximately 80 cm was found at the side of the road. It was collected for photography, and later released near where it was found.

**Remarks:** *Chrysopelea ornata* is a non-native species in Singapore. Its native range includes the Indian subcontinent and the Indo-Chinese region to as far south as northern Peninsular Malaysia. Two subspecies are recognised - *Chrysopelea ornata ornata* in south-western India and Sri Lanka; and *Chrysopelea ornata ornatissima* in northern and eastern India, and Southeast Asia (Das, 2010: 272). We speculate that the featured individual is either an escaped illegal pet, or introduced via ornamental plant imports. There is a previous record of this species in Singapore from a construction site in the city (Thomas & Boopal, 2014).

### References:

Das, I., 2010. *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 376 pp.

Thomas, N. & A. Boopal, 2014. Golden gliding snake at Shenton Way. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 51.



Photograph by Nathanaël Maury

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