

Sunda pangolins crossing road at Upper Peirce

Subjects: Sunda pangolin, *Manis javanica* (Mammalia: Pholidota: Manidae).

Subjects identified by: Lau Wei Han.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, road near Upper Peirce Reservoir Park leading to a water plant; unrecorded day in May 2014, around 0800 hours.

Habitat: Metalled road bordered by mature secondary rain forest.

Observers: Andrew & Sue Lau.

Observation: Two pangolins of similar sizes (around 80 cm in total length) climbed down a large tree, crossed a ditch, walked across the road, and clambered in and out of another ditch to reach a patch of trees on the opposite side of the road. The pangolin that reached the forest floor ahead of its companion crossed the road first (Fig. 1–5), with the other following suit (Fig. 6–10). They took about one minute to cross the road, and both seemed indifferent to humans watching them in close proximity. Fig. 1–10 were extracted from a video shot by Andrew Lau. The entire sequence can be viewed at: <http://youtu.be/22OhUTXda4w>.

Remarks: Despite being recorded in many places on Singapore Island, as well as on Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong (Baker & Lim, 2012: 150), the Sunda pangolin is infrequently seen and regarded as a ‘critically endangered’ species in Singapore. Many local pangolins have been killed on roads because of their wandering nature and clumsy gait (Lim et al., 2008: 191). As it is unusual to see two grown pangolins together, the animals featured here could be a breeding couple, or a large juvenile following its mother.

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., R. Subaraj, S. H. Yeo, N. Lim, D. Lane & B. Y. H. Lee, 2008. Mammals. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. pp. 190–207.



Fig. 1. Pangolin 1 on the road.



Fig. 2. Pangolin 1 in the middle of the road.

Photographs by Andrew Lau

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Fig. 3. Pangolin 1 entering the ditch.



Fig. 4. Pangolin 1 climbing out of the ditch.



Fig. 5. Pangolin 1 going into the forest.



Fig. 6. Pangolin 2 about to cross the road.



Fig. 7. Pangolin 2 stepping onto the road.



Fig. 8. Pangolin 2 on the road.



Fig. 9. Pangolin 2 on the road.



Fig. 10. Pangolin 2 out of the ditch and into the forest.

Photographs by Andrew Lau