

A smooth-coated otter at Changi

Subject: Smooth-coated otter, *Lutrogale perspicillata* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Mustelidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Changi Beach at Changi Beach Park; 20 November 2014; 1230 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine. Along the shoreline, and on the sandy beach.

Observer: Contributor, with David Eu.

Observation: A lone adult male otter was observed on the beach at the supra-littoral zone, rolling about in the sand (Fig. 1), making shrill whistling noises, and apparently oblivious to the human observers who were about 5 m away, snapping pictures. After about 5 minutes, he got up and waddled in an unhurried manner down to the water (Fig. 2) and swam away in the direction of Pulau Ubin.

Remarks: The smooth-coated otter usually frequents coastal habitats in Singapore and is usually encountered in family groups (see Baker & Lim, 2012: 153). It is not known if this individual had momentarily strayed from his group, or if he was a grown cub recently evicted from his family. Another lone otter was recently seen inland at the Botanic Gardens (Tan, 2014).

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.
- Tan, A., 2014. An otterly good time at the Botanic. *The Straits Times*. Friday, October 31, 2014: A2-A3.



Fig. 1. Lone otter rolling on the beach.



Fig. 2. Otter entering the sea.

Photographs by Francis L. K. Lim

Contributor: Francis L. K. **Lim**

Contact address: fab8055@singnet.com.sg