

Rediscovery of Gimlett's reed snake in Singapore

Subject: Gimlett's reed snake, *Calamaria gimletti* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Calamariidae).

Subject identified by: Contributors & Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Rifle Range Link; 27 February 2017; 0924 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observers: Serin Subaraj & Law Ing Sind.

Observation: The subject, of about 20 cm total length (Fig. 1-3), was found in a concrete drain under a pile of damp dead leaves.

Remarks: This appears to be the second record and rediscovery of *Calamaria gimletti* from Singapore. The species was first reported for Singapore by Leong (2004 as *Calamaria lowi gimletti*) from a 226 mm (total length) specimen found preserved in the collections of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore. It was collected 70 years before on Pulau Pawai in November 1933. The species is listed by Baker & Lim (2012: 169) as having indeterminate status in Singapore.

Calamaria gimletti can be distinguished from its congeners in Singapore by having 4 upper labial scales, no preocular scale, very slender body, a rounded tail tip; and being uniformly brown above, yellow beneath, with yellow spots irregularly placed along the sides of its body and tail (Tweedie, 1983: 54, 57 as *Calamaria lowi gimletti*). The species is known from Peninsular Malaysia and the Riau Islands off Sumatra (Das, 2010: 266).



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of entire *Calamaria gimletti*. Photograph by Serin Subaraj



Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of the head and tail of the snake. Photograph by Law Ing Sind



Fig. 3. Side view of the head and anterior body. Photograph by Law Ing Sind

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.
- Das, I., 2010. *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd, London. 376 pp.
- Leong T. M., 2004. Geographic distribution: *Calamaria lowi gimletti*. *Herpetological Review*. 35 (3): 290.
- Tweedie, M. W. F., 1983. *The Snakes of Malaya*. 3rd edition. Singapore National Printers (Pte) Ltd. 167 pp.

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