

An arboreal striped kukri snake

Uwe Will

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Subject: Striped kukri snake, *Oligodon octolineatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Uwe Will.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Coastal Trail close to Lumnitzera Walk; 16 March 2018; 0932 hrs.

Habitat: Coastal forest.

Observer: Uwe Will.

Observation: An example of about 50 cm total length was found resting on the rachis of a palm frond about one metre off the ground. Two to three minutes after the accompanying picture was taken, the snake proceeded to crawl further up the palm.

Remarks: The featured observation is interesting because *Oligodon octolineatus* is known to be mainly terrestrial (Das, 2010: 291), and have semi-fossorial habits (Baker & Lim, 2012: 106). Another striped kukri snake, also at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, was observed exposed in broad day light (Will, 2017: 107).

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. 376 pp.
- Will, U., 2017. Striped bronzebacks and striped kukri snake at Sungei Buloh. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2017: 106-107.



Dorsal view of the snake (head at left) along the stem of a palm frond. Photograph by Uwe Will