

## Sighting of Sunda colugos at Wessex Estate

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**Subjects:** Sunda colugo, *Galeopterus variegatus* (Mammalia: Dermoptera: Cynocephalidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Nick Baker & Norman T-Lon Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Wessex Estate, Woking Road; 6 March 2018; 1924 hrs.

**Habitat:** Suburban parkland. *Eucalyptus* tree at the roadside (Fig. 1).

**Observer:** Jill Bromley.

**Observation:** Two adult colugos were sighted on a *Eucalyptus* tree by the road. One glided off to a nearby mango tree (Fig. 2) while the other individual remained on the tree trunk. As it was sunset, observations could not be continued due insufficient lighting.

**Remarks:** In Singapore, the stronghold of colugos appears to be the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves (Lim, 2008; Baker & Lim, 2012). Although colugos are present in woodland adjacent to these Nature Reserves, they have also been reported in discrete wooded areas further away. In January 2017, one colugo was sighting at Gallop Road, adjacent to the Botanic Gardens (Low & Lai, 2018).

The featured sighting appears to be the first record from the Wessex Estate in the Queenstown area. It is largely an open parkland that is not linked to any locality with confirmed colugo presence. At approximately 2.5 km away, Gallop Road is the nearest location where the colugo is known to occur.



Fig. 1. The *Eucalyptus* tree on which the colugo was observed, and the immediate environs. Photograph by Nick Baker



Fig. 2. Picture at left shows the dorsal view of one of the colugos (circled in red) on the tree trunk. Picture at right shows the ventral view of the same colugo launching into the air and gliding towards the left. Screenshots from video by Jill Bromley

**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.
- Lim, N. T-L., 2008. *Colugo: The Flying Lemur of South-East Asia*. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and National University of Singapore. 80 pp.
- Low, M.-R. & S. Lai, 2018. Sighting of a Sunda colugo at Gallop Road. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2018: 138.