

Red-tailed racer at Thomson Nature Park

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Subject: Red-tailed racer, *Gonyosoma oxycephalum* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Shirley Ng.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Thomson Nature Park; 4 November 2019; 1030 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observer: Shirley Ng and others.

Observation: A large individual of about 2 m in total length was observed sunning itself high up on an African tulip tree (see attached picture for a lateral-ventral view of the subject). It moved further up the tree as a storm was approaching.

Remarks: The red-tailed racer is regarded as 'endangered' in Singapore (Davison et al., 2008: 265) where it seems to be restricted to the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves, and Pulau Tekong (Baker & Lim, 2012: 103).

At the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, examples of this arboreal snake have been recorded at the edges of the forest at the western part of Mandai (Groenewoud & Law, 2015), Venus Loop and Lower Peirce (Ng et al., 2016).

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.
- Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.), 2008. *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. Second edition. Nature Society (Singapore). viii + 285 pp.
- Groenewoud, D. & I. S. Law, 2015. Red-tailed racer at Mandai. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2015: 50.
- Ng, M. F. C., A. Sankar & I. S. Law, 2016. Mobbing of red-tailed racer by squirrels and macaques. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2016: 42-45.



Photograph by Shirley Ng