

A juvenile Sumatran flying dragon

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Subject: Sumatran flying dragon, *Draco sumatranus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Agamidae).

Subject identified by: Dhanushri Munasinghe.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Panjang, Fajar Road; 1 July 2020; 1148 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland in residential area.

Observer: Dhanushri Munasinghe.

Observation: A juvenile flying dragon of about 7 cm total length fell on the observer who was walking along a walkway with a row of trees on one side. The lizard had a folded patagium (Fig. 1) and an orange dewlap (Fig. 2). It was released after photography.

Remarks: The Sumatran flying dragon is native to Singapore and seems to be common in urban areas (Flora and Fauna Web, 2019; Baker & Lim, 2012: 77). Flying dragons are diurnal and arboreal, and travel from one tree to another by gliding with the help of a flap of skin (patagium) supported by extensions of the ribs. The patagium is folded against the sides of the body when not in use (Fig.1). The featured juvenile was likely to be gliding when it landed on the observer. Its orange dewlap or throat flap (Fig. 2) suggests that it is a male. Adult Sumatran flying dragons are known to attain a total length of 22 cm. The male has a large yellow dewlap while the female has a small blue one (Baker & Lim, 2012: 77).



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of flying dragon with folded patagium.



Fig. 2. Frontal ventral view of head and anterior body, showing the orange dewlap on the throat.

Photographs by Dhanushri Munasinghe

References:

Baker N & Lim K (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.

Flora and Fauna Web (2019) *Draco sumatranus*. National Parks Board.

<https://www.nparks.gov.sg/florafaunaweb/fauna/8/5/850>. Accessed on 7 July 2020.