

Biodiversity Record: Predation of dark-sided chorus frog by many-lined sun skink

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Subjects: Dark-sided chorus frog, *Microhyla heymonsi* (Amphibia: Anura: Microhylidae);
Many-lined sun skink, *Eutropis multifasciata* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae).

Subjects identified by: Ivan Neo.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Berlayer Creek boardwalk; 15 January 2023; 1608 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland, at intersection of grassland and back mangrove.

Observer: Ivan Neo.

Observation: A many-lined sun skink of about 20 cm total length was observed rummaging through leaf litter beside the boardwalk. It suddenly grabbed a dark-sided chorus frog of about 4 cm snout-vent length, from within the leaf litter, tossing it in its mouth a few times before swallowing the frog whole from its rear end. During this process, the frog did not show any sign of resistance or struggle. The skink then continued foraging for more prey items and disappeared from the observer's view beneath the boardwalk.



Fig. 1. Dorso-frontal view of the anterior part of the skink, grabbing a chorus frog at its hindquarters, in its mouth. Fig. 2. The skink proceeding to swallow the unresisting frog from its rear end (Photographs by: Ivan Neo).

Remarks: According to a study on the diet of *Eutropis multifasciata* in central Vietnam (Ngo et al., 2015), this lizard eats mostly small invertebrates and plant material. It is known to prey on small frogs of the family Dicroglossidae, but these apparently do not form a large part of the skink's diet. The present observation serves as a record that *Eutropis multifasciata* in Singapore also feeds on frogs, including members of the family Microhylidae.

Literature cited:

Ngo CD, Van Ngo B, Hoang TT, Nguyen TTT & Dang HP (2015) Feeding ecology of the common sun skink, *Eutropis multifasciata* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae), in the plains of central Vietnam. Journal of Natural History, 49: 2417–2436.