

Biodiversity Record: A rufous-coated female Sunda colugo at Windsor Nature Park

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Recommended citation. Alphonso LR, Ong RRX & Muhammad Affandi Anuar (2024) A rufous-coated female Sunda colugo at Windsor Nature Park. Nature in Singapore, 17: e2024055. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2024-0055

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

Subjects identified by: Muhammad Affandi Anuar, Rachel Rui Xue Ong and Leroy Rocky Alphonso.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Windsor Nature Park; 15 April 2024; around 1039 hrs and 1825 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observers: Muhammad Affandi Anuar, Rachel Rui Xue Ong and Leroy Rocky Alphonso.

Observation: A female rufous-coloured colugo was observed on the side of a tree around 4 to 5 m above the ground, and about 3 m away from a publicly accessible boardwalk (Fig. 1). Due to disturbances by a nearby troop of long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) traversing close by, the rufous-coated colugo began looking around. Not long after, the head of a grey-coated offspring was spotted emerging from within the confines of the mother's patagium and began observing its surroundings as well, before partially emerging. A plantain squirrel (*Callosciurus notatus*) was seen approaching the rufous-coloured colugo and its offspring (Fig. 2), but scurried away when the offspring looked towards the squirrel's direction.

Both mother and infant colugo were observed in the same position on the same side of the tree at 1825 hrs. During this time, the offspring emerged further, exposing the claw and skin flaps of its right arm (Fig. 3).



Fig. 1. Rufous-coloured adult female Sunda colugo carrying a grey-coated offspring (Photograph by: Rachel Ong).



Fig. 2. Rufous-coloured adult female colugo carrying a grey-coated offspring being approached by a plantain squirrel. Fig. 3. Infant colugo emerging from under its mother's patagium. The claws and skin flaps on its right arm are visible (Photographs by: Rachel Ong).

Remarks: The Sunda colugo is native to Singapore and occurs naturally within the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. The first photographic confirmation of a rufous-coated female Sunda colugo was made within the compounds of the Singapore Zoo in September 2022 (Yeong et al., 2023). Colugo offspring are known to be exclusively carried by the female of the species despite some shared parental duties exhibited in certain social settings (Byrnes et al., 2011; Dzulhelmi Nasir, 2013). This record of a rufous-coated female Sunda colugo is the second for Singapore.

Literature cited:

Byrnes G, Lim N, Yeong C & Spence AJ (2011) Sex differences in the locomotor ecology of a gliding mammal, the Malayan colugo (*Galeopterus variegatus*). *Journal of Mammalogy*, 92: 444–451.
 Dzulhelmi Nasir (2013) *Natural History of the Colugo*. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, 101 pp.
 Yeong C, Yeak SW, Tan CJ & Lim NT-L (2023) Biodiversity Record: Photographic confirmation of a female rufous-coated Sunda colugo. *Nature in Singapore*, 16: e2023027.