

Biodiversity Record: Gimlett's reed snakes on Sentosa Island

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Subjects: Gimlett's reed snake, *Calamaria lovii gimletti* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae: Calamariinae).

Subjects identified by: Remy Shek and Daryl Tan.

Location, date and time: Sentosa Island; 17 March 2024; 0135 hrs & 0212 hrs, respectively.

Habitat: Leaf litter adjacent to secondary forest.

Observers: Daryl Tan, Hamadnurriyat Bin Mohd Azam, Rachel MY Cheong and Remy Shek.

Observations: Two live individuals, each around 20 cm total length, were observed separately. The first was seen at 0135 hrs fully exposed in the middle of the trail, crossing the path (Fig. 1). It was gently flipped over for a quick photograph of its underside (Fig. 2). The second one was spotted at 0212 hrs partially exposed among leaf litter (Fig. 3).

Remarks: The Gimlett's reed snake was first collected in Singapore at Pulau Pawai in 1933 (Leong, 2004 as *Calamaria lowi gimletti*). It has recently been found at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve (Choo, 2019 as *Calamaria gimletti*), Upper Seletar (Tan & Lee, 2021), Rifle Range Link (Serin et al., 2017 as *Calamaria gimletti*) and Upper Old Thomson Road (Law & Kanaïke, 2018 as *Calamaria gimletti*). In Singapore, the species is regarded as endangered and rare (Figueroa et al., 2023 as *Calamaria lovii*; Thomas et al., 2024 as *Calamaria lowi gimletti*). This is very likely the first record from Sentosa, and the second island location (apart from Pulau Pawai) for the species in the country.

It should be noted that the two individuals herein featured differ in colouration from the ones from Singapore Island. The Sentosa specimens lack yellow spots, and the yellow part of the ventral surface is confined to the ventral scales (see Figs. 1–3). The specimens inhabiting the inland forests on Singapore Island have a pair of yellow spots on the dorsal surface of the tail, and the yellow on the ventrum extends to the sides of the body (see Serin et al., 2017; Law & Kanaïke, 2018; Choo, 2019; all as *Calamaria gimletti*; Tan & Lee, 2021). It is possible that they are not conspecific, but this is best resolved by a detailed taxonomic and genetic study of snakes identified as *Calamaria lovii* and *Calamaria gimletti*.

Literature cited:

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Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of the first snake in the middle of the trail, in-situ (Photograph by: Remy Shek).



Fig. 2. The underside of the mid-section of the first snake. Note that the yellow is confined to the ventral scales (Photograph by: Remy Shek).



Fig. 3. The second snake partially hidden under leaf litter, in-situ (Photograph by: Daryl Tan).