

## Biodiversity Record: A mating pair of Sunda colugo

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

**Subjects identified by:** Adeline Goh.

**Locations and dates:** Singapore Island, Rifle Range Nature Park; 20 September 2024; 1259–1310 hrs.

**Habitat:** Secondary forest.

**Observer:** Adeline Goh.

**Observation:** At 1259 hrs, a grey-coloured adult colugo was noted gliding and landing on a tree trunk at least 2 m off the ground. Almost immediately, another colugo with purplish pelage glided and landed behind the first animal. Within seconds, the second animal moved on top of the grey colugo and mating was observed (Figs. 1 & 2). The grey animal is assumed to be a female while the purple one, a male. The male, with his muzzle half-buried in the fur between the female's shoulders, was assumed to be biting the scruff of her back, but this is not evident in the photographs. The female then turned her head behind and started to bite the male's head (Figs. 3 & 4). After about two minutes, she stopped biting the male and turned her head to face skywards. The pair remained in this position with the male moving his limbs slightly from time to time.

A video of the process, recorded by the author, can be viewed at: [https://www.instagram.com/reel/DAI8dCAJj1rp-X5WJ9LFiQC5udp\\_YbTx2pK4Hg0/?igsh=MTQxaDBnaTRpaHg2dg==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DAI8dCAJj1rp-X5WJ9LFiQC5udp_YbTx2pK4Hg0/?igsh=MTQxaDBnaTRpaHg2dg==)

**Remarks:** The featured observation recalls a previous 20-minute sighting of mating colugos by Yeong & Seow (2021) where there was active pursuit of the female, the male roughly and repeatedly biting the scruff of the female, and loud vocalisations.

The pair featured here had stayed in position for at least ten minutes. The male could be trying to prevent any rival males in the vicinity from gaining physical access to the female while she was still receptive, which ensures that he alone sires the offspring that could result from this union.

Female Sunda colugos were thought to be grey while males can be rufous or grey (see Lim, 2007). However, a rufous nursing female was recently confirmed by Yeong et al. (2023), and another observed by Alphonso et al. (2024). The male in this observation is unusual in that he has grey pelage with a strong purplish tinge from his neck downwards. It is also noted that the white mark beneath the eye is less distinct than that of the female (see Fig. 2).

### Literature cited:

Alfonso LR, Ong RRX & Muhammad Affandi Anuar (2024) Biodiversity Record: A rufous-coated female Sunda colugo at Windsor Nature Park. Nature in Singapore, 17: e2024055.

Lim N (2007) Colugo: The Flying Lemur of South-east Asia. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte Ltd and National University of Singapore, Singapore, 80 pp.

Yeong C & Seow B (2021) Biodiversity Record: A mating pair of Sunda colugo. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021043.

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.

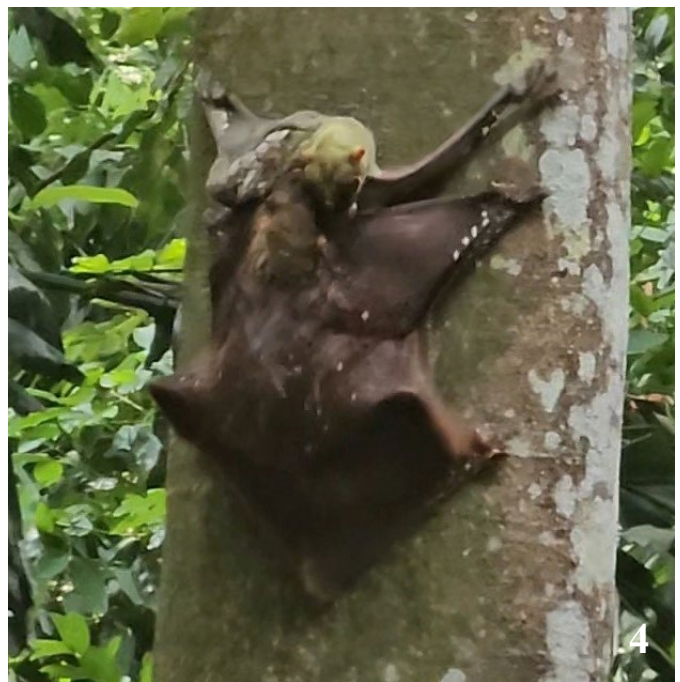


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of mating colugos. Fig. 2. Lateral view of mating colugos. The female is the grey individual with the front half of her body visible. Note the purplish pelage of the male. Figs. 3 & 4. Female turning her head to bite the male (Photographs by: Adeline Goh).