

Biodiversity Record: Black-headed collared snake at Old Upper Thomson Road

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Subject: Black-headed collared snake, *Sibynophis melanocephalus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae: Sibynophiinae).

Subject identified by: Cornelius Lee.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island: Old Upper Thomson Road; 16 June 2024; around 1128 hrs.

Habitat: Concrete pavement adjacent to secondary forest.

Observers: Hamadnurrifat Bin Mohd Azam and Cornelius Lee.

Observation: A live example of about 60 cm total length was observed slowly slithering across wet concrete pavement (Fig. 1). As the observers got closer, the snake seemed to freeze and remained stationary. It was then relocated to the forest away from the path where joggers were frequent (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. The subject slowly slithering on the wet concrete pavement, in-situ (Photograph by: Cornelius Lee). Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of the snake after relocation (Photograph by: Hamadnurrifat Bin Mohd Azam).

Remarks: *Sibynophis melanocephalus* is a widespread but uncommon species in Singapore that is locally classified as 'vulnerable' (Thomas et al., 2024). It can be found in forests, parkland, freshwater marshes on the main island, as well as on Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong (Figueroa et al., 2023). This species was previously recorded near the present location at Upper Peirce Reservoir Park by Lee (2015). The present observation was made during sunny weather an hour after heavy rainfall. It is possible that the apparently sluggish snake was attempting to warm itself up on the pavement.

Literature cited:

- Figueroa A, Low MEY & Lim KKP (2023) Singapore's herpetofauna: updated and annotated checklist, history, conservation, and distribution. Zootaxa, 5287: 1–378.
- Lee HL (2015) Black-headed collared snake at Upper Peirce Reservoir Park. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2015: 62.
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