

Clouded monitor lizards at the Singapore Botanic Gardens

Subjects: Clouded monitor, *Varanus nebulosus* (Reptilia: Sauria: Varanidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Singapore Botanic Gardens; 1) Palm Valley on 17 July 2013 at around 1315 hrs; 2) Rainforest Walk on 25 October 2013 at 1129 hrs.

Habitat: Parkland and forest fragment.

Observer: Contributor.

Observations:

1. The example from 17 July 2013 was a brightly coloured juvenile of about 90 cm total length. It was seen with the front half of its body outside a hole at about 3.5m off the ground on a *Bhesa paniculata* tree (Fig. 1). There was a hive of an unidentified stingless bee at the top edge of the tree hole (Fig. 2).

2. On 25 October 2013, an adult of about 1.5 m total length was observed climbing down the trunk of a large tree in the Rainforest Walk (Fig. 3 & 4).

Remarks: These appear to be the first records of the clouded monitor from the Botanic Gardens. This species is also known from the Central Nature Reserves, Bukit Batok Nature Park, Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong (Baker & Lim, 2012).

Reference: Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes*. Updated edition. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Photographs by Noel Thomas