

## White-bellied blind snake at Ulu Sembawang

**Subject:** White-bellied blind snake, *Typhlops muelleri* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Typhlopidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributors.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Ulu Sembawang, Jalan Lada Hitam, outside Orchidville plant nursery; 31 July 2009; around 1000 hrs.

**Habitat:** Found in a roadside drain by secondary forest and plant nursery.

**Observers:** Contributors. The snake was found by Tang Choon Nam.

**Observation:** An example of about 25 cm total length (see accompanying picture) was found in a drain outside a plant nursery. It was taken for photography, and released near Upper Peirce Reservoir Park the next day.

**Remarks:** This inoffensive and distinctive fossorial snake grows to 45 cm in total length. In Singapore, it is rarely seen, and is there regarded as a 'critically endangered' species (Lim, 2008: 264). It has been recorded from the Central Catchment Nature Reserve and Pulau Ubin (Baker & Lim, 2012: 90).

### References:

- 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.
- Lim, K. K. P., 2008. Checklists of threatened species: fishes, amphibians and reptiles. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore.* Second Edition. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 263-266.



Photograph by Nick Baker

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Contact address: <http://www.ecologyasia.com/html-menu/feedback.htm> (Baker)