

## Sunda colugo carcass at Bukit Drive

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

**Subject identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Bukit Drive, off Hindhede Road, near edge of Bukit Timah Nature Reserve; 16 August 2012; 1035 hrs.

**Habitat:** Metalled road through suburban parkland and secondary forest.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** A colugo carcass, probably a day or two old, severely flattened by road vehicles (Fig. 1), was found in the middle of one lane of Bukit Drive (Fig. 2). The animal, about 20 cm in length, appears to be a juvenile.

**Remarks:** Colugos rarely descend to the ground and there are no known instances of colugos travelling from point to point by moving on the ground. While the species is capable of gliding across distances greater than 100 m (Lim, 2007), the trees on both sides of the road were not tall enough for glides across the road. Therefore, it is possible that the animal had attempted to glide from one side of the road to the other, but landed short of the intended destination (i.e., landed on the road), and was then ran over by a vehicle. It is also plausible that a predator had killed or injured the animal and then abandoned it in the middle of the road before it was crushed by vehicles.

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



Fig. 1. Top view of flattened colugo carcass on Bukit Drive. Photograph by Norman T-L. Lim





Fig. 2. Position of colugo carcass (indicated by white arrows) as viewed from two sides of Bukit Drive. Note the vegetation on both sides of the road. Photographs by Norman T-L. Lim

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