

Sunda pangolin at Upper Bukit Timah Road

Subject: Sunda pangolin, *Manis javanica* (Mammalia: Pholidota: Manidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Upper Bukit Timah Road near the entrance of Hindhede Road; 5 June 2015; 2145 hrs.

Habitat: Four-lane metaled road in suburban housing area.

Observers: Contributor with Hannah, Matthias, Jacob and Lucas Diermayr.

Observation: The contributor was in the car with Hannah, Matthias and Jacob Diermayr, about to turn into Hindhede Road, when they spotted a small pangolin of about 60 cm total length stepping down onto the four-lane Upper Bukit Timah Road. She stopped her car mid-road, put on the hazard lights, and sent Jacob out to guide the pangolin away from the road. On his approach, the animal rolled into a ball between the left-most and second lane of the road. Uncertain of what to do next and due to oncoming traffic, the boy quickly scooped up the pangolin and took it in the car to their house at Bukit Way, which is next to the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.

After Lucas Diermayr had obtained several pictures of the animal with a mobile phone (see attached photograph), the observers put it on the grass in the compound of their residence. At once, the pangolin took off up a slope and disappeared into the forest of the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.

Remarks: The Sunda pangolin is regarded as a 'critically endangered' species in Singapore. Because of its wandering nature, it often has to cross roads where it seems prone to being run over by vehicles (Lim et al., 2008: 191). The featured animal may have become a road casualty had the contributor and her family not intervened.



Photograph by Lucas Diermayr

Reference: Lim, K. K. P., R. Subaraj, S. H. Yeo, N. Lim, D. Lane & B. Y. H. Lee, 2008. Mammals. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. pp. 190-207.

Contributor: Veronica **Diermayr**

Contact address: vdiermayr@d3.a-star.edu.sg