

Plantain squirrels at Semakau Landfill

Subjects: Plantain squirrel, *Callosciurus notatus* (Mammalia: Rodentia: Sciuridae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Semakau Landfill; 26 June 2016; at around noon.

Habitat: Sub-urban.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: Two examples were observed among the buildings near the jetty. While they were actively foraging in the trees (Fig. 1), one of them even ventured on to ground in an open concretised area (Fig. 2).

Remarks: This seems to be the first record of the plantain squirrel on Semakau Landfill. The only rodents recorded from the island had been two species of rat - *Rattus tiomanicus* and *Rattus tanezumi* (Chua, 2011: 284; Ng, 2012:147). As the squirrels were rather bold and conspicuous, they appear to be a recent introduction to the island. They were possibly released there deliberately by people.

References:

- Chua, M. A. H., 2011. The herpetofauna and mammals of Semakau Landfill: a Project Semakau checklist. *Nature in Singapore*. 4: 277-287.
- Ng, M. F. C., 2012. *Habitats in Harmony: The Story of Semakau Landfill*. Second edition. National Environment Agency, Singapore. 158 pp.



Fig. 1. One of the squirrels in a tree.



Fig. 2. Another in an exposed area.

Photographs by Ron K. H. Yeo

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