

Slender squirrel preying on gecko

Subjects: Slender squirrel, *Sundasciurus tenuis* (Mammalia: Rodentia: Sciuridae);
Unidentified gecko (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, boardwalk by Lower Peirce Reservoir; 10 April 2017; 1650 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: An adult slender squirrel was observed on the trunk of a tree sapling with its head pointing downwards around one metre off the ground. It was busily consuming a gecko, whose head is visible in the accompanying photographs. The gecko appeared to be eaten from its posterior towards the head, and was rapidly consumed in its entirety.

Remarks: The slender squirrel is known to be omnivorous (Baker & Lim, 2012: 137). Baker (2017) illustrates one eating a caterpillar. The present observation shows that it will also consume small vertebrate prey. However, without a view of its entire body, the identity of the gecko cannot be determined.

References:

- Baker, N., 2017. Slender squirrel preying on caterpillar. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2017: 40.
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.



Left: latero-ventral view of squirrel's head and forelimbs clutching a gecko in its paws. Right: enlarged section of the same picture with close-up dorso-lateral view of the gecko's head. Photograph by Nick Baker

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