

## Carcass of banded Malayan coral snake in a phytotelma

**Subject:** Banded Malayan coral snake, *Calliophis intestinalis* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Elapidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Windsor Nature Park, Venus Loop; 20 April 2017; 1000 hrs.

**Habitat:** Secondary forest. Phytotelma of approximately 10 cm depth and 10 cm diameter, flooded with rainwater, located at height of 130 cm on the trunk of a tree sapling (Fig. 1).

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** The anterior two-thirds of a dead banded Malayan coral snake was found partially submerged in the phytotelma (Fig. 2). The posterior section of the snake's body appeared to have been bluntly removed (Fig. 3). The remaining portion was 25 cm in length (Fig. 4 & 5).

**Remarks:** The incomplete carcass of the snake suggests that it had been partially eaten. As the banded Malayan coral snake has semi-fossorial habits (see Baker & Lim, 2012: 116), its presence in the elevated phytotelma suggests that it was carried there. Possible predators include raptorial birds such as owls (see Chan, 2013), and squirrels (see Ogilvie, 1958; Baker, 2017).

### References:

- Baker, N., 2017. Slender squirrel preying on gecko. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2017: 54.
- 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.
- Chan K. W., 2013. Pink-headed reed snake captured by buffy fish owl. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 89.
- Ogilvie, C. S., 1958. The arrow-tailed flying squirrel *Hylopetes sagitta* (Linne). *The Malayan Nature Journal*. 12 (4): 149-152.



Fig. 1. Location of the phytotelma (indicated by arrow) in the forest. Photograph by Connor Butler





Fig. 2. View of original position of the snake in the phytotelma upon discovery.



Fig. 3. View of snake rearranged to feature head and severed part of the body.



Fig. 4. View of the dorsum of the snake re-arranged within the phytotelma.



Fig. 5. View of the dorsum of the snake, with its head at the lowest point.

Photographs by Connor Butler

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