

A Sunda pangolin at Yishun Central

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Subject: Sunda pangolin, *Manis javanica* (Animalia: Chordata: Mammalia).

Subject identified by: Simon Kee Mun Chan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Yishun Central, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Atrium Garden; 22 July 2017; between 0020 and 0045 hrs.

Habitat: Parkland with man-made streams and a waterfall at the basement of a concrete building complex.

Observer: Anonymous member of the cleaning staff at the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital.

Observation: According to the anonymous cleaner who relayed the sighting through the supervisor, a pangolin (Fig. 1) was encountered on a cool evening, apparently foraging for ants along the many planter boxes in the garden (Fig. 2). The animal was found again by security personnel three nights later. It was captured and handed over to the National Parks Board for relocation to a protected natural location.



Fig. 1. Pangolin about to jump on to a planter box.
Photograph by anonymous member of staff.



Fig. 2. Top view of the Atrium Garden where the animal was seen. Photograph by Simon Kee Mun Chan.

Remarks: On Singapore Island, pangolins are rarely seen, but they are widespread. Apart from the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves, they have also been found in rural and scrub areas such as at Batok Batok and the Western Catchment Area (Baker & Lim, 2012: 150). In November 2016, an individual was found wandering within a complex of buildings at the University Town of the National University of Singapore's campus at Kent Ridge (Wong, 2016). This encounter is similar, but interesting in that a pangolin has managed to take up temporary residence for at least three days within a building complex with much human activity. Furthermore, the animal would have to cross at least one road, and walk through the void decks of some apartment buildings to get to the featured location from the nearest patches of woodland.

References:

- Baker N & Lim KKP (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.
- Wong D (2016) Another lost pangolin this week, found in NUS this time, rescued and released into the wild. The Straits Times (online edition), 27 November 2016.