

## Malayan bridle snake at Old Upper Thomson Road

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**Subject:** Malayan bridle snake, *Lycodon subannulatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

**Subject identified by:** Emmanuel Shyue Chian Goh.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Old Upper Thomson Road, opposite lamp-post 112; 9 December 2019; 2058 & 2304 hrs.

**Habitat:** On a metal railing adjacent to the edge of mature secondary forest.

**Observers:** Spencer Jia Ming Yau, Wang Ting & Emmanuel Shyue Chian Goh.

**Observation:** An example of about 50 cm total length was found hugging a green metal railing (see pictures attached). The individual was believed to be asleep as removal of a sand grain on its body (misidentified as a tick) did not trigger any visible movement and the snake was found in the same position at the same spot a few hours later at 2304 hrs.

**Remarks:** Apparently locally restricted to the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves, the Malayan bridle snake is considered locally endangered in Singapore (Davison et al., 2008: 163; Lim et al., 2013; Teo & Thomas, 2019 – as *Dryocalamus subannulatus*). Although described as a nocturnal snake (Baker & Lim, 2008: 101), the featured individual appeared to be asleep at the time of observation.

### References:

- Baker N & Lim KKP (2008) Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore), 180 pp.
- Davison GWH, Ng PKL & Ho HC (eds.) (2008) The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore. Second Edition. Nature Society (Singapore), 285 pp.
- Lim KKP, Leong TM & Ng BC (2013) Malayan bridle snakes at the Central Nature Reserves. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2013: 122–123.
- Teo RCH & Thomas NJ (2019) Updated inventory of amphibians, reptiles and mammals of the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Singapore. Gardens' Bulletin Singapore, 71 (Suppl. 1): 145–183.



Dorsal views of the anterior part (left picture) and the posterior part (right picture) of the Malayan bridle snake on the metal railing at Old Upper Thomson Road. Photographs by Spencer J. M. Yau