

## Biodiversity Record: A sailfin lizard at Mandai Lake Road

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**Subject:** Amboina sailfin lizard, *Hydrosaurus amboinensis* (Reptilia: Squamata: Agamidae).

**Subject identified by:** Lim Zong Xian and Carmen Choong.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Mandai Lake Road, construction site by Upper Seletar Reservoir; 2 March 2021; around 1730 hrs.

**Habitat:** Construction site next to secondary forest and a freshwater lake.

**Observers:** Lim Zong Xian and Carmen Choong.

**Observation:** An example of 75 cm to 1 m in total length, was spotted under a storage container at a construction site (Fig. 1). It was about 3 m from the nearest footpath and remained stationary despite the movement of workers along the footpath during the observation period of around 10 minutes. An attempt was made to capture the lizard, but it bolted towards the reservoir and dived into thick vegetation where it could not be located.

**Remarks:** Sailfin lizards are characterized by a broad fringe of skin along the mid-dorsal margin of the tail. These diurnal, semi-aquatic reptiles frequent wooded riparian habitats in the Philippines, New Guinea and Amboina Island in Indonesia, and five species are presently recognised based on morphological characters (Denzer et al., 2020). Although traded as exotic pets primarily from Indonesia, these lizards are currently not protected by CITES (see Heinrich et al., 2021). The featured example, tentatively identified as *Hydrosaurus amboinensis*, has not been observed in Singapore before. It was likely to have been imported illegally as a pet, and could have escaped from captivity or was abandoned.

### Literature cited:

Denzer W, Campbell PD, Manthey U, Glässer-Trobisch A & Koch A (2020) Dragons in neglect: Taxonomic revision of the Sulawesi sailfin lizards of the genus *Hydrosaurus* Kaup, 1828 (Squamata, Agamidae). *Zootaxa*, 4747: 275–301.  
Heinrich S, Toomes A & Janssen J (2021) Legal or unenforceable? Violations of trade regulations and the case of the Philippine Sailfin Lizard *Hydrosaurus pustulatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Agamidae). *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 13: 18532–18543.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the sailfin lizard, in-situ. (Photograph by: Lim Zong Xian)