

Biodiversity Record: Singapore swamp skink, *Tythoscincus temasekensis*, at Mandai

Robbin Tan

Email: robbintann.tr@gmail.com

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Subject: Singapore swamp skink, *Tythoscincus temasekensis* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae).

Subject identified by: Law Ing Sind.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Mandai Park Connector; 11 August 2023; around 2255 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest, in a patch of bamboo.

Observers: Robbin Tan, Ethan Ajay Lai, Nonis Randy, Gabrielle Poh Faye Fann, Leong Zhen Yan and Carine Oh Chew Hoon.

Observation: An example of around 3 cm snout-vent length was found lying still on the ground. When approached, it darted about for a while, but appeared to be rather sluggish. Closer inspection in the hand revealed that the lizard had injuries on its neck and chest (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the head and body of the subject. Note the wound on its neck (Photograph by: Robbin Tan).

Remarks: This diminutive forest-dwelling lizard is rarely seen, although it is widespread in the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves and the Western Catchment area (Figueroa et al., 2023). The present record represents the first from the north-western edge of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. This location also seems unusual for this apparently semi-aquatic species, as no water body appeared to be present there and in the immediate vicinity.

Literature cited:

Figueroa A, Low MEY & Lim KKP (2023) Singapore's herpetofauna: updated and annotated checklist, history, conservation, and distribution. Zootaxa, 5287: 1–378.