

## Blue-headed Forest Skink *Sphenomorphus cyanolaemus* at Sungai Bantang, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia

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**Observer:** Nick Baker.  
**Photograph by:** Nick Baker.  
**Subject identified by:** L. Lee Grismer.

**Location:** Hutan Lipur Sungai Bantang, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia.  
**Habitat:** Lowland dipterocarp forest, 20 metres from fast-flowing, rocky stream.  
**Date and time:** 07 January 2015, 15:46 hrs.

**Identity of subject:** Blue-headed Forest Skink, *Sphenomorphus cyanolaemus* (Reptilia: Sauria: Scincidae).

**Description of observation:** One example of estimated 6 cm snout-vent length on the buttress of a large tree, 2 metres above the ground. Upon being disturbed the lizard rapidly descended to the ground and ran into the forest. Also on the same buttress was an example of the Spotted Forest Skink *Sphenomorphus scotophilus*.



Fig 1.

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**Remarks:** This lizard exhibits the typical colouration of a female *Sphenomorphus cyanolaemus*, and its body width indicates it is gravid (L. Lee Grismer *pers. comm.*). The species is rarely encountered in Peninsular Malaysia : only 4 locations are indicated on the distribution map in Grismer (2011), the southernmost of which is at Kepong, Selangor. Sungai Bantang lies 190 km southeast of Kepong and this record appears to represent a considerable expansion of the known range of the species in Peninsular Malaysia.

**Reference:** Grismer, L. L. (2011). *Lizards of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, and their Adjacent Archipelagos. Their Description, Distribution, and Natural History.* Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 728 pp.