

Karin Chan also saw three **Common Starlings** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at a Mai Po fish pond on the afternoon of 29 October.

Two **Eurasian Hoopoe** (*Upupa epops*) were seen by Kwok Hon Kai in Lut Chau on 7 and 8 October. He also saw two **Black-naped Terns** (*Sterna sumatrana*), one of which was a juvenile, in Mai Po gei wai number 24 on 8 October.

AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES

Robert Davison saw **Common Rat Snakes** (*Ptyas mucosus*) engaging in mating behaviour on the City University campus earlier this year and then on 8 November one dead juvenile (approx 0.6 m long) on campus. Its head was crushed and tail broken about 3 cm from the end, possibly by a foot or stray dog/cat biting. He wondered if it might be the juvenile of the snakes sighted earlier.

The following reptiles were sighted by Mike Kilburn:

80 cm long adult of a **Many-banded Krait** (*Bungarus multicinctus multicinctus*) hunting in Ng Tung Chai stream on 7 September.

A 30 cm long roadkilled **Coral Snake** (*Calliophis macclellandi*) on Ng Tung Chai Access Road on 23 August.

A 15 cm long (possibly juvenile) **Chinese Mountain Snake** (*Sibynophis chinensis chinensis*) on a steep path from Tai Mo Shan to Man Duk Yuen temple, Ng Tung Chai on 24 August.

PLANTS

Flowers of **Hong Kong Balsam** (*Impatiens hongkongensis*) Grey-Wilson (Balsaminaceae), **Wallich's Burmannia** (*Burmannia wallichii*) Hook.f. (Burmanniaceae) and an **orchid**, identified by Dr. Gloria Siu as *Malaxis latifolia* Sm. (Orchidaceae), were seen in Tai Po Kau (10 November) by Cecily Law and Roger Kendrick.



Impatiens hongkongensis

Thousands of *Codium* juveniles formed slicks off Power Station beach and within the harbour at Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island in the weeks leading up to the 7 December noted Andy Cornish. Juveniles of *Codium macroalgae*, which are thin walled, translucent green balls, up to about 1.5 cm in diameter, are carried within the water column and eventually settle onto hard substrate and develop into the adult phase which is a more familiar branched seaweed. Such slicks have not previously been observed in these areas in recent years.

Recent Publications

Books, monographs etc.

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