

Asian softshell turtle at Mandai west

Subject: Asian softshell turtle, *Amyda ornata* (Reptilia: Testudines: Trionychidae).

Subject identified by: Tan Heok Hui & Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, west of Mandai Lake Road; 5 August 2015, 1030 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater in scrubland. Open country stream with slow flowing clear water, sand and silt substrates, and grassy banks.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: A juvenile example, under 8 cm in carapace length (see accompanying picture), was spotted on the sandy bank of the stream.

Remarks: In Singapore, the Asian softshell turtle is found mainly in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (Baker & Lim, 2012: 126 as *Amyda cartilaginea*) and regarded as a locally 'endangered' species (Lim, 2008: 266 as *Amyda cartilaginea*). *Amyda cartilaginea* is known to be a complex of several species and the form native to mainland Southeast Asia is believed to be *Amyda ornata* (see Fritz et al., 2014). The precise identity of the present individual is complicated by the possibility of it being from introduced stock, especially since it was found in a disturbed aquatic environment just outside the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (see Ng & Lim, 2010: 121 as *Amyda cartilaginea*).

References:

- Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes*. Updated edition. Draco Publishing & Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore).
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- Lim, K. K. P., 2008. Checklists of threatened species: fishes, amphibians and reptiles. In: G. W. H. Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. Second edition. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 263-266.
- Ng T. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2010. Introduced aquatic herpetofauna of Singapore's reservoirs. *COSMOS*. 6 (1): 117-127.



Photograph by Liew Jia Huan

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