

Sowerby's venus clam, *Lioconcha sowerbyi*, a new record for Singapore

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Subject: Sowerby's venus, *Lioconcha sowerbyi* (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Veneridae).

Subject identified by: Tan Siong Kiat and Chan Sow-Yan.

Location, date and time: Johor Strait, Changi Beach; 21 February 2019, late afternoon.

Habitat: Estuarine beach. Intertidal area with patches of seagrass.

Observer: Lau Wing Lup.

Observation: One example (Fig. 1 & 2) was found exposed outside its burrow, nestled among seagrass and sediment during low tide. The specimen is deposited as a voucher in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore, catalogued as ZRC.MOL.15616.

Remarks: *Lioconcha sowerbyi* was described from the Philippines as *Circe sowerbyi* by Deshayes (1853). It was rarely mentioned in literature, with Huber (2010) calling it an enigma since its description. Identification of the featured specimen was based on comparisons with the lectotype figured in Lamprell & Healy (2002: 123), and specimens of *Lioconcha sowerbyi* from the Philippines and Borneo in Huber (2010) which agree well with the Singapore example. Species of *Lioconcha* are known to exhibit a rather large degree of variation in shell shape, colour and markings (see Moolenbeek et al, 2008).

Lioconcha sowerbyi superficially resembles *Pitar lineolatus*, a confamilial species recently reported from Singapore (see Tan et al, 2017). *Pitar lineolatus* however, has a distinct and pronounced pallial sinus. Incidentally, both venus clams were found at the same general location at Changi. Recently, Glover et al. (2016) recorded a congener, *Lioconcha ornata*, from Seringat and Lazarus islands in Singapore. *Lioconcha sowerbyi* is herein recognised as a new record for Singapore (see Tan & Woo, 2010).

References:

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Fig. 1. Right valve of *Lioconcha sowerbyi*, shell length 29.9 mm, showing reddish brown concentric tented patterns and numerous indistinct radial rays. The translucent layer of periostracum is clearly visible along the ventral edge.



Fig. 2. Interior of the left valve with purplish brown stain, and showing the adductor muscle scars and shallow pallial sinus.

Photographs by Lau Wing Lup