

Biodiversity Record: Juvenile melongenid shells at Changi

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Subjects: *Volegalea* or *Brunneifusus* species (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Melongenidae).

Subjects identified by: Chan Sow-Yan and Lau Wing Lup.

Location, date and time: Johor Strait, Changi Beach Park, Ferry Beach; 19 September 2020; around 0648 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine shore. Intertidal zone, among seaweed and seagrass.

Observer: Lau Wing Lup.

Observation: Three small (around 4 mm in shell height), freshly dead melongenid shells were found on windowpane oysters (*Placuna placenta*) (Fig. 1). The shells (Figs. 2–4) have bulbous protoconchs, and freshly dead examples have frilly projections on their subsutural periostracum (Figs. 3–4).



Fig. 1. Three juvenile melongenids (circled red) on window pane oyster shell in situ at Changi Beach. (Photograph by: Lau Wing Lup).

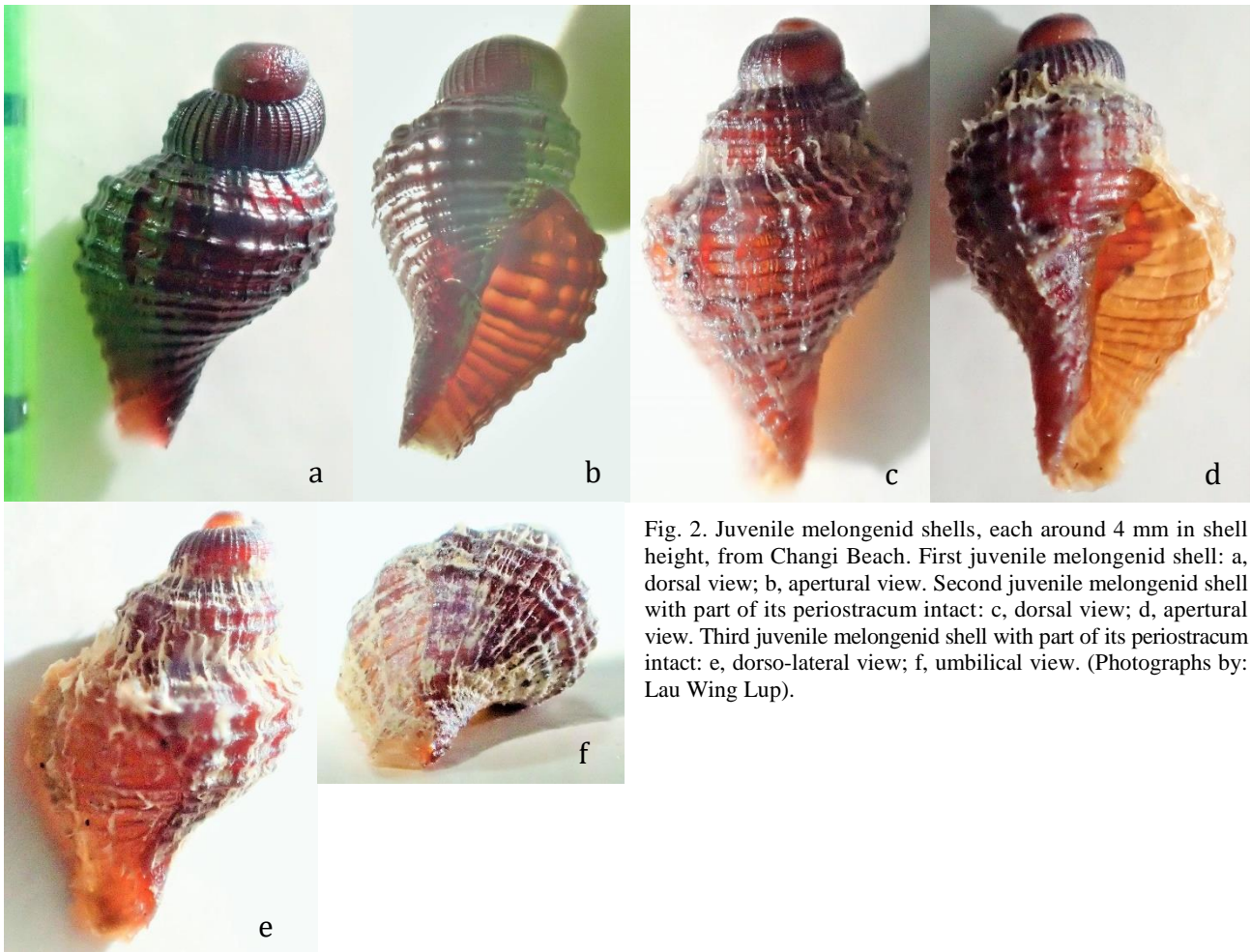


Fig. 2. Juvenile melongenid shells, each around 4 mm in shell height, from Changi Beach. First juvenile melongenid shell: a, dorsal view; b, apertural view. Second juvenile melongenid shell with part of its periostracum intact: c, dorsal view; d, apertural view. Third juvenile melongenid shell with part of its periostracum intact: e, dorso-lateral view; f, umbilical view. (Photographs by: Lau Wing Lup).

Remarks: Three species of Melongenidae have been recorded in Singapore by Chan (2009). Juvenile shells depicted herein are too small to properly identify to species, but they can be narrowed down to the three species recorded from Singapore, i.e., *Volegalea pugilina*, *Volegalea cochlidium* and *Brunneifusus ternatanus* (Chan, 2009, where *Volegalea pugilina* is identified as *Pugilina cochlidium* and *Volegalea cochlidium* is identified as *Pugilina cochlidium* form *wardiana*). *Volegalea pugilina* appears to be the commonest among the three species in Singapore, while *Volegalea cochlidium* has not been found alive thus far, and is believed to inhabit sub-tidal zones (Chan, 2009). Changes in generic and specific names of the melonginids mentioned here are attributed to Dekkers (2018).

Literature cited:

Chan SY (2009) The Melongenidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda) of Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*, 2: 63–67.
Dekkers AM (2018) Two new genera in the family Melongenidae from the Indo-Pacific and comments on the identity of *Hemifusus zhangyii* Kosuge, 2008 and *Pyruha elongata* Lamarck, 1822 (Gastropoda, Neogastropoda: Buccinoidea). *Gloria Maris*, 57: 40–50.