

Biodiversity Record: A shy dove snail, *Mitrella pudica*, at Changi Beach

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Subject: Shy dove snail, *Mitrella pudica* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Columbellidae).

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

Location, date, and time: Johor Strait, Changi Beach Park; 1st February 2022 at 1644 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine. Intertidal shore, among seaweeds, at low tide.

Observer: Lau Wing Lup.

Observation: One live snail, with a shell height of approximately 6 mm, was spotted on the base of an exposed biofouled concrete boulder. The snail was noted to secrete a thin and sticky mucous strand (Figs. 1 & 2). A group of the similar confamilial dotted dove snail (*Euplica scripta*) was observed nearby (Fig. 3).

Remarks: *Mitrella pudica* was first recorded from Singapore based on specimens dredged off Saint John's Island in 2015 (Sanpanich & Tan, 2016). Subsequently, two empty shells were found among beach debris at East Coast Park (Chan, 2019). The individual herein featured represents the first local record of a live snail found intertidally.

Mitrella pudica can be mistaken as the sympatric dotted dove snail (*Euplica scripta*) (see Fig. 3) but differs in having a more elongated shell with dotted spiral lines, and smaller, less conspicuous brownish flame-like markings, as well as thin peristome or outer lip. Another sympatric species, the adorned dove snail, *Zafra ornata*, can also be misidentified as the juveniles of *Mitrella pudica* (see Chan & Lau, 2019).

Literature cited:

Chan S-Y (2019) Two small species of dove-shells found at East Coast Park. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2019: 110–111.

Chan S-Y & Lau WL (2019) New record of adorned dove-shell, *Zafra ornata*, in Singapore. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2019: 105–107.

Sanpanich K & Tan SK (2016) Shell-bearing gastropod molluscs of the Singapore Strait. The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology, Supplement No. 34: 528–538.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of live *Mitrella pudica* in-situ. Fig. 2. Apertural view of the same snail dislodged and showing the sticky mucous strand it secreted. Fig. 3. Apertural view of a live juvenile dotted dove snail (*Euplica scripta*) of about 10 mm shell height in the same area, illustrated for comparison. (Photographs by: Lau Wing Lup)