

A record of Singapore keyhole limpet, *Diodora singaporensis*

Subject: Singapore keyhole limpet, *Diodora singaporensis* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Fissurellidae).

Subject identified by: Tan Siong Kiat.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Pulau Senang; 30 March 2014; 1700 to 1900 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Intertidal coral reef flat.

Observers: Lee Yen-ling & Rene Ong.

Observation: An example measuring 19.5 mm (Figs. 1 & 2) was found among coral rubble at low tide between 0.5 and 0.7 m depth.

Remarks: This species was erroneously stated to be endemic to Singapore by Ng & Corlett (2011). It is in fact widely distributed throughout the Indo-West Pacific (eg. Wilson, 1993; Dharma, 2005; Thach, 2005). Although not often seen around Singapore Island, it is quite commonly encountered on the intertidal reef flats of the southern islands as it seems to prefer clearer waters and coral reef habitats (personal observations).

About half a dozen species of fissurellids have been recorded in Singapore thus far (Tan & Woo, 2010). However material obtained from opportunistic samplings made over the years suggests that the fissurellid species diversity is much higher (unpublished data). Future studies focusing on the taxonomy of the local fissurellids will be needed to provide an accurate account of the species diversity.

References:

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- Thach, N. N., 2005. *Shells of Vietnam*. Conchbooks, Hackenheim. 338 pp., 91 pls.
- Wilson, B. R., 1993. *Australian Marine Shells: Prosobranch Gastropods. Part 1*. Odyssey Publishing, Western Australia. 408 pp.

Note: This is a contribution of the Singapore **Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey** conducted by the National University of Singapore's Tropical Marine Science Institute and the National Parks Board.

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Fig 1. Dorsal view of *Diodora singaporensis*, showing the sculptured surface of the shell and the 'keyhole'.



Fig 2. Ventral view of live *Diodora singaporensis*, showing the colour patterns on its soft head-foot.

Photographs by Rene Ong