

The allied cowrie, *Diminovula margarita*, at Lazarus Island

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Subject: Allied cowrie, *Diminovula margarita* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Ovulidae).

Subject identified by: Tan Siong Kiat, Wong Hoong Wei and Calvin Leow Jiah Jay.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Lazarus Island; 19 June 2019, 0725 hrs.

Habitat: Intertidal shore among coral rubble, on a colony of soft coral.

Observer: Calvin Leow Jiah Jay.

Observation: An example of 11 mm shell length was found crawling on the stalk of a soft coral (Fig. 1) with its foot exposed and mantle partially covering its shell (Fig. 2). Only one individual was found on that soft coral colony which was partially exposed at low tide of 0.1 m.

Remarks: From the shape of the shell and the colour pattern of the foot and mantle, as well as a faint yellow suture line at the posterior extremity of the shell (Fig. 2), the featured specimen seems to resemble *Diminovula margarita* most closely (see Lorenz & Fehse, 2009). Schilder (1927) recorded *Diminovula margarita* from Singapore, but the recent treatment of this family in Singapore by Wong (2011) did not include this species.

References:

- Lorenz, F. & D. Fehse, 2009. *The Living Ovulidae: A Manual of the Families of Allied Cowries: Ovulidae, Pediculariidae and Eocypraeidae*. Conchbooks, Hackenheim, Germany. 651 pp.
- Schilder, F. A., 1927. Revision der Cypraeacea (Moll., Gast.). *Archiv für Naturgeschichte*. 91A (10): 1-171.
- Wong H. W., 2011. *The Ovulidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda) of Singapore*. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 58 pp.



Fig. 1. Allied cowrie insitu on soft coral stalk.



Fig. 2. Dorsal view of allied cowrie. Note its exposed foot and mantle partially covering the shell. A faint yellow suture line (indicated by an arrow) is barely visible at the posterior end of the shell.

Photographs by Calvin Leow Jiah Jay