

Giant Asian pond terrapin at Nee Soon swamp-forest

Subject: Giant Asian pond terrapin, *Heosemys grandis* (Reptilia: Testudines: Geoemydidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Nee Soon swamp-forest; 26 September 2010; around 1120 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary lowland forest and freshwater swamp-forest.

Observers: Tan Siong Kiat & Chan Sow Yan.

Observation: An individual of about 40 cm carapace length was found crawling on the forest floor, about 5 m away from the nearest water body.

Remarks: *Heosemys grandis* is a large terrapin that attains 48 cm in carapace length. It is native to Myanmar and Indochina, southwards to the Malay Peninsula (Das, 2010: 171), but appears to be an introduced species in Singapore. An example was reported from the Seletar Airbase in 2005 (Ng & Lim, 2010: 126).

References:

Das, I., 2010. *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 376 pp.

Ng T. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2010. Introduced aquatic herpetofauna of Singapore's reservoirs. *COSMOS*. 6 (1): 117-127.



Fig. 1. View of carapace.



Fig. 2. View of plastron.

Photographs by Tan Siong Kiat

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