

Giant Asian pond terrapin hatchling at Upper Seletar

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, Upper Seletar Reservoir Park; 5 May 2012; around 1107 hrs.

Habitat: Road at edge of secondary lowland forest and freshwater swamp-forest.

Observer: Fung Tze Kwan.

Observation: A dead hatchling of about 5 cm carapace length was found squashed on the road, most likely ran over by a motor vehicle.

Remarks: Juvenile *Heosemys grandis* have a distinctive broad ridge over the middle of the carapace (Auliya, 2007: 53). In Singapore, this species is regarded as non-native (Ng & Lim, 2010: 126). An adult example was recorded from the adjacent Nee Soon swamp-forest in September 2010 (Tan & Lim, 2013). The very young individual in the present record was very likely hatched in the vicinity, strongly suggesting that *Heosemys grandis* is already breeding locally.

References:

Auliya, M., 2007. *An Identification Guide to the Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore and Timor Leste*. TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. 99 pp.

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

Tan S. K. & K. K. P. Lim, 2013. Giant Asian pond terrapin at Nee Soon swamp-forest. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 115.



Photograph by Fung Tze Kwan

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