

## A record of the green turban *Turbo marmoratus* in Singapore

**Subject:** Green turban, *Turbo marmoratus* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Turbinidae).

**Subject identified by:** Tan Siong Kiat

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Straits, Sentosa Island; 1979.

**Habitat:** Marine, but specific habitat not indicated by collector.

**Observer:** J. B. Sigurdsson (collector).

**Observation:** A juvenile specimen (shell height 40.9 mm, shell width 34.2 mm; ZRC 1999.1803) was located in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. Shell height is measured from the apex to the lowest part of the basal side of the peristome, while shell width is measured perpendicularly to the coiling axis at the widest part of the body whorl (periphery).

**Remarks:** The specimen had previously been identified as *Turbo petholatus*. *Turbo marmoratus* was first recorded from Singapore (as “*Turbo cochlus*”) by Traill (1847). It is apparently very rare in Singapore waters, and there appears to have been no confirmed records since. An operculum of this species was figured by K. S. Tan & Chou (2000), who also remarked that *Turbo marmoratus* “is probably absent in Singapore waters today”. The figured specimen provides a vouchered confirmation of the presence of this species in Singapore.

This species is known to inhabit coral reefs with constant flow of oceanic current, with juveniles mainly found on reef crests while adults are found in deeper depths of up to 20 m or more (Yamaguchi, 1993; Poutiers, 1998). *Turbo marmoratus* is the largest member of its family, and may attain more than 20 cm in shell width (Yamaguchi, 1993). It is the most important commercial species of its family in the Indo-Pacific and is extensively harvested for food and the mother-of-pearl, which is used for jewellery, inlay, and button making (Poutiers, 1998).

### References:

- Poutiers, J. M., 1998. Gastropods. In: Carpenter, K. E. & V. H. Niem, (eds.), *FAO Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes. The Living Marine Resources of the Western Central Pacific. Volume 1*. Rome, FAO. Pp. 363–648.
- Tan K. S. & L. M. Chou, 2000. *A Guide to Common Seashells of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre, Singapore. 168 pp.
- Traill, W., 1847. A few remarks on conchology and malacology: comprising brief notices of some of the more remarkable ‘Testacea’ in Singapore and its neighbourhood; with an appended catalogue of Singapore shells arranged in conformity with ‘Lamarck’s System’. *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia*. **1**: 225–241.
- Yamaguchi, M., 1993. Green Snail. In: Wright, A. & L. Hill (eds.). *Nearshore Marine Resources of the South Pacific*. Institute for Pacific Studies, Suva. Pp. 497–511.

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Two views of *Turbo marmoratus* (ZRC 1999.1803).

Photograph by Tan Siong Kiat