

Cuban sliders at Singapore Botanic Gardens

Subjects: Cuban slider, *Trachemys decussata* (Reptilia: Testudines: Emydidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Botanic Gardens, Symphony Lake on 16 December 2006; and Swan Lake on 23 October 2010.

Habitat: Large open freshwater ponds with largely concrete edges, in parkland.

Observer: Contributor.

Observations: Two records of two different individuals are presented here.

1) On the morning of 16 December 2006, a large example of about 16 cm carapace length was hauled out on a root mat at the edge of Symphony Lake (Fig. 1).

2) 23 October 2010 at 0947 hrs, one individual of about 12 cm carapace length was found in Swan Lake, swimming at the surface of the water (Fig. 2).

Remarks: The Cuban slider, sometimes found in the feral state in Singapore (Baker & Lim, 2012: 125), is locally far rarer than its congener, the presently abundant red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). It has previously been recorded from Jurong Lake, MacRitchie, Upper Peirce, Upper Seletar and Lower Seletar Reservoirs (Ng & Lim, 2010: 123).

References:

Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes*. Reprint with corrections and updates. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.

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



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Photographs by Kelvin K. P. Lim

Contributor: Kelvin K. P. Lim

Contact address: dbslimkp@nus.edu.sg