

## Spotted reef crab at Pulau Tekukor

**Subject:** Spotted reef crab, *Carpilius maculatus* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Carpiliidae).

**Subject identified by:** Peter K. L. Ng.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Straits, west side of Pulau Tekukor; 27 May 2013, 1120 hrs.

**Habitat:** Large coral boulder beneath jetty, encrusted with soft corals and with hollows, at about 6 m depth.

**Observer:** Tan Heok Hui.

**Observation:** During a dive conducted for the Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey (Southern Expedition) workshop, a female *Carpilius maculatus* of carapace length 189.9 mm and width 126.3 mm, and with a single chela, was extricated from a shallow hollow of a large coral boulder. The specimen is deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, at the National University of Singapore, under the catalogue number ZRC 2013.1880.

**Remarks:** *Carpilius maculatus* has been listed as occurring in Singapore by Wee & Ng (1994). As it tends to be a nocturnal scavenger, this species is rarely seen and is regarded as locally endangered by Yeo et al. (2008). Tan (2012) has recorded this distinctive crab from the Sisters and Kusu Islands.

### References:

- Tan, R., 2012. Spotted reef crab. *Wild Fact Sheets*. <http://www.wildsingapore.com/wildfacts/crustacea/crab/carpiliidae/maculatus.htm>. Last updated in December 2012. (accessed on 18 December 2013).  
Wee Y. C. & P. K. L. Ng (eds.), 1994. *A First Look at Biodiversity in Singapore*. National Council on the Environment, Singapore. 163 pp.  
Yeo, D. C. J., S. H. Tan & P. K. L. Ng, 2008. Horseshoe crabs (Phylum Arthropoda: Subphylum Chelicerata: Class Merostomata). Decapod crustaceans (Phylum Arthropoda: Subphylum Crustacea: Order Decapoda). In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.), *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore. Second Edition*. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 110–128, 259–262.

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Dorsal (top), ventral (middle) and frontal (bottom) views of the female *Carpilius maculatus* (ZRC 2013.1880) from Pulau Tekukor. Frontal view with ambulatory legs masked. Photograph by Jose Christopher Mendoza

