

## Malaysian giant terrapin at Nee Soon swamp-forest

**Subject:** Malaysian giant terrapin, *Orlitia borneensis* (Reptilia: Testudines: Geoemydidae).

**Subject identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Nee Soon swamp-forest; 12 May 2011; 0300 hrs.

**Habitat:** Mature secondary forest and freshwater swamp-forest. In flooded clearing beside a stream.

**Observer:** Contributor..

**Observation:** An adult example of about 60 cm carapace length was observed submerged in water.

**Remarks:** This terrapin attains 80 cm in carapace length and is the largest freshwater turtle in Southeast Asia. It inhabits the large river systems of Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo, but is likely to be an introduced species in Singapore. Individuals have been recorded from MacRitchie, Lower Peirce and Upper Seletar Reservoirs (Ng & Lim, 2010: 123). The present example could have wandered into the swamp-forest from Upper Seletar Reservoir. According to the Asian Turtle Trade Working Group (2000), this species is internationally endangered.

### References:

Asian Turtle Trade Working Group. 2000. *Orlitia borneensis*. In: IUCN 2013. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.2. [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org). Accessed 28 Jan.2014.

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



Photograph by Marcus A. H. Chua

Contributor: Marcus A. H. Chua

Contact address: [marcus.chua.ah@gmail.com](mailto:marcus.chua.ah@gmail.com)