

Dead juvenile spiny terrapin at Sime forest

Subject: Spiny terrapin, *Heosemys spinosa* (Reptilia: Testudines: Geoemydidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Sime forest, Sime Track; 15 May 2004; 1625 hrs.

Habitat: Dirt track in secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: A juvenile example of about 8 cm carapace length was found dead on its back, and covered with flies (Fig. 1), on the dirt trail in the middle of a tyre track.

Remarks: The spiny terrapin is an uncommon native turtle that in Singapore, seems to be confined to the Central Nature Reserves. The carapace of young turtles has very distinct spiky edges (Baker & Lim, 2012: 123). As it was found in the middle of a tyre track (Fig. 2), the dead juvenile featured here looks like it may have accidentally been run over and killed by a vehicle. However, this did not seem likely as the animal was not crushed or embedded in the substrate.

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



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

Photographs by Kelvin K. P. Lim

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