

## Freshwater sponge at Marina Bay South Gardens

**Subjects:** Freshwater sponge, unidentified (Porifera: Haplosclerida: Spongillidae).

**Subjects examined by:** Lim Swee Cheng.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Marina Bay South Gardens, Dragonfly Pond; 29 October 2013; 1130 hrs.

**Habitat:** Artificial body of freshwater in urban parkland. Water sourced from Marina Reservoir.

**Observers:** Contributor, Chen Ming Li and Tan Boon Hong.

**Observation:** A cast-net was used to obtain samples for an ongoing study of a non-native freshwater fish fauna. Small clumps of greenish matter (see attached picture showing both sides of the same clump) were found clinging to the exterior of the net when it was retrieved from the water. It is believed that these fouling organisms were growing on concrete pillars supporting the wooden walkway along the perimeter of the Dragonfly Pond. They were snagged by the net when it brushed against the pillars. Initially thought to be algae, the greenish clumps turned out to be sponges upon closer inspection.

**Remarks:** Lim & Tan (2013) first recorded the freshwater sponge *Eunapius conifer* from Yishun Pond. The present record seems to be the second. However, the samples are lacking the base where the gemma persists and is critical for species identification (Lim Swee Cheng, pers. comm.). Until a complete specimen is obtained, the identity of this sponge remains unknown.



Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

**Reference:** Lim S. C. & K. S. Tan, 2013. A first record of freshwater sponge from Singapore and redescription of *Eunapius conifer* (Annandale, 1916) (Haplosclerida: Spongillina: Spongillidae). *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. 61 (2): 453-459.

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