

## Cone snail *Conus reclusianus* at Lazarus Island

**Subject:** *Conus reclusianus* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Conidae).

**Subject identified by:** Tan Siong Kiat.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Straits, Lazarus Island; 23 January 2014; around 1100 hrs.

**Habitat:** Coral reef, at 4 m depth, among silt covered coral rubble.

**Observer:** Toh Chay Hoon.

**Observation:** The herein featured cone snail measuring  $40.7 \times 22.0$  mm (shell height  $\times$  shell width) was encountered resting on a silt covered coral rock during a SCUBA dive survey. See illustrations of the animal in life on Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

**Remarks:** The specimen was collected and deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore, under the catalogue number ZRC.MOL.5714.

The current record of *Conus reclusianus* is interesting because there have been no confirmed records of this species since Lim (1969: 45, 49, fig. 1) first recorded this species from Singapore, under the name *Conus malacanus* (see Röckel, 1984: 10). The specimen figured by Lim (1969: 45, 49, fig. 1) is clearly referable to *Conus reclusianus*. In a later work, Lim & Wee (1992: 56, pl. 13, unnumbered figure at left of bottom row) also illustrated a specimen from Singapore, with the name correctly given as *Conus reclusianus*.

It is interesting to note that although more than 25 species of cone snails have been recorded from Singapore to date (e.g., Lim & Wee, 1992; Tan & Woo, 2010: 48, 49), these snails appear to be exceedingly rare in Singapore waters at present (unpublished data). Between the records in the 1960s (Orr, 1968; Lim, 1969) and the present specimen, there appears to have been no published mention of any *Conus* species in Singapore (see Lim & Wee, 1992; and references cited in Tan & Woo, 2010).

### References:

- Lim C. F., 1969. Further new records and the distribution of *Conus* Linnaeus in Singapore and the Malay Peninsula. *Journal of the Singapore National Academy of Science*. 1 (2):45–50.
- Lim C. F. & V. T. H. Wee, 1992. *Southeast Asian Conus. A Seashells Book*. Seaconus, Singapore. 100 pp., 26 pls.
- Orr, J., 1968. The elusive *Cypraea stolidus*. *Hawaiian Shell News*. 16 (2): 6.
- Röckel, D., 1984. Looking at India's many species of *Conus*. *Hawaiian Shell News*. 32 (10): 9–10.
- Röckel, D., W. Korn & A. J. Kohn, 1995. *Manual of the Living Conidae. Volume 1: Indo-Pacific Region*. Verlag Christa Hemmen, Germany. 517 pp.
- Tan S. K. & H. P. M. Woo, 2010. *A Preliminary Checklist of the Molluscs of Singapore*. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 78 pp.

**Note:** This is a contribution of the Singapore **Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey** conducted by the National University of Singapore's Tropical Marine Science Institute and the National Parks Board.

We thank Professor Alan Kohn (Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Washington) for kindly assisting us in obtaining literature.

Contributors: **Toh Chay Hoon, Tan Siong Kiat & Martyn E. Y. Low**  
Contact address: [dbstsk@nus.edu.sg](mailto:dbstsk@nus.edu.sg) (Tan)



Fig. 1. Ventral view of *Conus reclusianus* (ZRC.MOL.5714) in life, showing soft parts of the animal.



Fig. 2. Dorsal view of *Conus reclusianus* (ZRC.MOL.5714) in life, showing the single or double rows of spirally aligned tufts of the periostracum.

Photographs by Toh Chay Hoon