

Spiny terrapins in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve

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

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Sime forest and Nee Soon swamp-forest; 4 December 2013 and 2 April 2014; evening.

Habitat: Mature secondary and freshwater swamp-forests, on forest floor and in shallow stream.

Observer: Contributor.

Observations: Two observations are herein featured. Both are adult males (from their concave plastrons) of about 25 cm carapace length.

1) On 4 December 2013 at around 2000 hrs, one encountered traversing a shallow forest stream at Sime forest (Fig. 1).

2) On 2 April 2014, at around 2100 hrs, an example was observed along a forest trail in a hilly area at Nee Soon swamp-forest (Fig. 2).

Remarks: In Singapore, the spiny terrapin is uncommon and apparently restricted to the forests of the Central Nature Reserves. It is regarded as a locally 'vulnerable' species (Lim et al., 2008: 174).

Reference: Lim, K. K. P., N. Baker, R. Teo & T. M. Leong, 2008. Reptiles. 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. 160-176.



Fig. 1. Example in stream at Sime forest.



Fig. 2. Example on forest trail at Nee Soon.

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