

## Giant Asian pond terrapin at Springside estate

**Subject:** *Heosemys grandis* (Reptilia: Testudines: Geoemydidae).

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

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Seletar area, Springside Avenue; 17 July 2014; 1700 hrs.

**Habitat:** Suburban housing estate.

**Observers:** Sheryl Khong & Ashwyn Michael Sandhu.

**Observation:** A juvenile example of 7 cm carapace length (see accompanying picture) was found outside a house on the road. The animal was released at Lower Seletar two days later.

**Remarks:** The Asian giant pond terrapin is believed to be an introduced species in Singapore. It has been found at Seletar Airbase near Lower Seletar Reservoir in 2005 (Ng & Lim, 2010: 126), and in the Nee Soon swamp-forest in 2010 (Tan & Lim, 2013). A roadkill hatchling recorded at Upper Seletar Reservoir Park in 2013 (Fung & Lim, 2013) may indicate that this terrapin is breeding locally. The present juvenile appears to support this suggestion. It is possible that the terrapin had wandered into the housing estate from the nearby wooded area with streams that drain into the Lower Seletar Reservoir.

### References:

- Fung T. K. & K. K. P. Lim, 2013. Giant pond terrapin hatchling at Upper Seletar. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 120.
- Ng T. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2010. Introduced aquatic herpetofauna of Singapore's reservoirs. *COSMOS*. 6 (1): 117-127.
- Tan S. K. & K. K. P. Lim, 2013. Giant Asian terrapin at Nee Soon swamp-forest. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 115.



Photograph by Sheryl Khong

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