

## Spiny terrapin scavenging on a bat carcass

**Subjects:** Spiny terrapin, *Heosemys spinosa* (Reptilia: Testudines: Geoemydidae); Fig. 1.  
Fruit bat, *Cynopterus* sp. (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Pteropodidae); Fig. 2.

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, forest north of MacRitchie Reservoir; 20 July 2014; 1030 hrs.

**Habitat:** Mature secondary lowland dipterocarp forest.

**Observers:** Contributor.

**Observation:** An adult spiny terrapin of about 25 cm carapace length was found feeding on a fresh but severely mangled carcass of a fruit bat. The terrapin, apparently startled by the contributor, walked quickly away (Fig. 1) from the carcass which immediately attracted blowflies (Fig. 2).

**Remarks:** The spiny terrapin is said to be primarily herbivorous, but is known to occasionally consume insects, earthworms and carrion (Bonin et al., 2006: 322). The present observation illustrates the scavenging behaviour of this species.

**Reference:** Bonin, F., B. Devaux & A. Dupré, 2006. *Turtles of the World*. English edition. A & C Black Publishers Ltd, London. 416 pp.



Fig. 1. Terrapin hurrying away.



Fig. 2. Mangled remains of a fruit bat.

Photographs by Horst Flotow

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