

Giant Asian pond terrapin at Venus Drive forest

Subject: Giant Asian pond terrapin, *Heosemys grandis* (Reptilia: Testudines: Geoemydidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, forest off Venus Drive adjacent to MacRitchie forest; 7 August 2014; 0650hrs.

Habitat: Shallow freshwater stream with sandy substrate, in secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: An adult of about 40 cm carapace length was observed crawling half-submerged in the stream. After the attached photograph was taken, the terrapin fled into a section of the stream that was densely covered in vegetation.

Remarks: The giant Asian pond terrapin is thought to be an introduced species in Singapore. It has been recorded from Upper Seletar (Fung & Lim, 2013), the Lower Seletar area (Khong & Lim, 2014) and the Nee Soon swamp-forest (Tan & Lim, 2013). This appears to be the first record of this species from the MacRitchie-Upper Thomson area.

References:

- Fung T. K. & K. K. P. Lim, 2013. Giant Asian pond terrapin hatchling at Upper Seletar. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 120.
Khong, S. & K. K. P. Lim, 2014. Giant Asian pond terrapin at Springside estate. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 205.
Tan S. K. & K. K. P. Lim, 2013. Giant Asian pond terrapin at Nee Soon swamp-forest. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 115.



Photograph by Law Ing Sind

Contributor: **Law Ing Sind**
Contact address: lawingsind@yahoo.com.sg