

Marbled cone snail at Pulau Hantu

Subject: Marbled cone snail, *Conus marmoreus* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Conidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor and Tan Siong Kiat.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, patch reef off western Pulau Hantu; 30 August 2014; 1115 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, on the silty-sand substrate at about 12 m depth.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: An empty shell of about 8 cm shell length was found half-buried in the substrate. The contributor had exposed the shell to obtain the accompanying picture.

Remarks: The featured example appears to have died recently as the colour pattern on the shell is relatively distinct, and the surfaces, except for the rear end, were not eroded. This appears to be the second published record of the genus *Conus*, and the first confirmed record of *Conus marmoreus*, in Singapore since the 1960s (see Toh et al., 2014; Lim, 1969). This species has been depicted on a series of Singapore postage stamps on marine life that was issued in 1977.

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.
- Toh C. H., S. K. Tan & M. E. Y. Low, 2014. Cone snail *Conus recluzianus* at Lazarus Island. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 135-136.



Photograph by Toh Chay Hoon

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