

Asian softshell turtles at Lower Peirce forest

Subjects: Asian softshell turtle, *Amyda cartilaginea* (Reptilia: Testudines: Trionychidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Lower Peirce forest; 22 May 2012 at 1738 hrs and 11 October 2013 at 1443 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater. Shallow stream with silty substrate and leaf litter in secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observations: A young example of about 8 cm carapace length was crawling at the bottom of the stream, and briefly surfaced for air on 22 May 2012 (Fig. 1). A second sighting of a similar sized turtle, but with more pronounced ocelli was made at the exact same location on 11 October 2013 (Fig. 2).

Remarks: The two turtles featured here, observed more than a year apart, do not appear to be the same individual. Both were likely to have hatched in or near the stream. Asian softshell turtles inhabit forest streams and are regarded as native to Singapore (Baker & Lim, 2012: 126). However, some individuals, particularly those found outside the forest nature reserves may be introduced (Ng & Lim, 2010: 121).

References:

- Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes.* Updated edition. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.
- Ng T. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2010. Introduced aquatic herpetofauna of Singapore's reservoirs. *COSMOS*. 6 (1): 117-127.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

Photographs by Nick Baker

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