

## Another case of human-assisted dispersal of the snail *Helicarion perfragilis*

**Subject:** *Helicarion perfragilis* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Helicarionidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributors.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Bukit Brown Cemetery; 28 April 2012; morning.

**Habitat:** Found *ex-situ*, on the brim of a hat worn by a human.

**Observers:** Gan Su-lin and others.

**Observation:** One adult with shell length of about 8 mm was found crawling on the brim of a hat worn by a human after a walk through Bukit Brown Cemetery. See accompanying picture.

**Remarks:** In a previous contribution, we reported an observation of human as an unintended vector for the dispersal of the arboreal snail *Helicarion perfragilis* (Foon et al., 2014). This contribution presents a second observation of this accidental behavior in this snail species. There are two possibilities of how the snail hitch-hiked on the human: 1) The human might have walked into the snail suspended in mid-air via a slime thread (Tan 2012; Lim, 2013). 2) The human might have brushed across a snail crawling on the surfaces of the leaves of undergrowth plants (Ho, 1995; Tan et al., 2012). Note that the slime of the snail is quite viscous (Tan et al., 2012).

Bukit Brown Cemetery is separated from the Central Catchment Nature Reserve by Lornie Road. The vegetation along accessible parts of the cemetery consists of a mixture of non-native and native flora including large trees such as *Albizia saman*, *Falcataria moluccana*, *Ficus microcarpa*, *F. variegata*, *Macaranga hypoleuca* and *M. gigantea*, as well as a mosaic of open to dense secondary forest undergrowth (Nature Society [Singapore], 2012). The section of the cemetery nearest to the adjacent Central Catchment Nature Reserve is characterised by old secondary and primary rainforest plant species (Lim, 2014).

### References:

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**Note:** We thank Gan Su-Lin for permission to use her photograph.



*Helicarion perfragilis* on the brim of a hat worn by a human after a walk through Bukit Brown Cemetery. Photograph by Gan Su-lin.

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