

## Chinese striped-neck terrapin at Sungei Buloh

**Subject:** Chinese striped-neck terrapin, *Mauremys sinensis* (Reptilia: Testudines: Geoemydidae).

**Subject identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve; 16 December 2014; 1230 hrs.

**Habitat:** Freshwater pond in scrubland.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** An example of about 20 cm carapace length was photographed at the surface of the water (see attached picture).

**Remarks:** The Chinese stripe-necked terrapin is not native to Singapore, and examples seen in the wild are believed to be abandoned pets. Individuals have been recorded from Bedok, MacRitchie and Upper Seletar Reservoirs, but it is presently banned for sale in the local pet trade (Ng & Lim, 2010: 123). This species resembles another alien terrapin, the far more numerous red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) in appearance. In contrast, the striped-neck terrapin has a dark brown carapace, finer lines on the head, and lacks the large red blotch behind the eye. It has not been known to breed in Singapore.

**Reference:** Ng T. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2010. Introduced aquatic herpetofauna of Singapore's reservoirs. *COSMOS*. 6 (1): 117-127.



Photograph by Nick Baker

Contributor: Nick **Baker**

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