

Freshwater leech at Mandai

Subject: Freshwater leech, unidentified (Annelida: Clitellata: Hirudinidae).

Subject identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Mandai west, Mandai Lake Road; 2 May 2015; around 2200 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater. In small stream within secondary forest.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: A large individual of about 10 to 12 cm when fully stretched (Fig. 1) was found attached to the footwear (Fig. 2) of one of the observers who had wandered into the stream.

Remarks: Large freshwater leeches in Singapore have been referred to the genera *Hirudinaria* and *Limnatis* (Yeo, 2011: 362). *Limnatis dissimulata* and *Hirudinaria manillensis* (the buffalo leech), both occurring in the Malay Peninsula, are very similar to each other in external morphology (Moore, 1938: 65). It may be very difficult to tell them apart from photographs limited to views of the subject's dorsal surface.

References:

- Moore, J. P., 1938. Leeches (Hirudinea) principally from the Malay Peninsula, with descriptions of new species. *Bulletin of the Raffles Museum, Singapore*. 14: 64-80.
- Yeo, R. K. H., 2011. Leeches. In: Ng, P. K. L., R. T. Corlett & H. T. W. Tan (eds.). *Singapore Biodiversity. An Encyclopedia of the Natural Environment and Sustainable Development*. Editions Didier Millet & Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. p. 362.



Fig. 1. Leech stretched out on the forest floor. Fig. 2. Leech attached to footwear.

Photographs by Serin Subaraj

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