

Mating millipedes *Chondromorpha xanthotricha* at Punggol Park

Subject: Millipede, *Chondromorpha xanthotricha* (Diplopoda: Polydesmida: Paradoxosomatidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Punggol Park; 15 June 2014; 1053 hrs.

Habitat: Open parkland. On the trunk of a *Cassia fistula* tree.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: Two millipedes, each around 2.5 cm in total length, were found on the trunk of a tree at about 0.5 m above the ground. One was perched on the back of the other. The individual on the top curled its head downwards and 'embraced' the head region of the millipede below (see picture attached). They appeared to be mating.

Remarks: *Chondromorpha xanthotricha* is widespread in many parts of the tropics, but is probably native to India and Sri Lanka. It was recently discovered in Singapore, probably having arrived with imported plants and compost. Although common in parks and gardens, it appears that little is known about the life history and ecology of this species (Decker & Tertilt, 2012: 147; Decker, 2013: 11).

References:

- Decker, P., 2013. *Annotated checklist of the millipedes (Diplopoda) and centipedes (Chilopoda) of Singapore*. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 29 pp.
- Decker, P. & T. Tertilt, 2012. First records of two introduced millipedes *Anoplodesmus saussurii* and *Chondromorpha xanthotricha* (Diplopoda: Polydesmida: Paradoxosomatidae) in Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*. 5: 141-149.



Photograph by Chua Keng Soon

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