

White nut sheath bubble shell *Atys naucum* at Pulau Hantu

Subject: White nut sheath bubble shell, *Atys naucum* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Haminoeidae).

Subject identified by: Tan Siong Kiat.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, off Pulau Hantu; 8 February 2015; around 1630 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Silty seabed adjacent to coral reef, at a depth of around 10 m.

Observer: Toh Chay Hoon.

Observation: An example of about 25 mm shell length (see attached picture) was found during a dive. The empty shell shows signs of weathering and the animal is believed to have died some time ago.

Remarks: *Atys naucum* has been recorded from Singapore as early as the late 1800s (Pilsbry, 1893). However it appears to be rare with few mentions in local literature or sightings by beachcombers. There appears to have been no confirmed records of this species since Chuang (1973) mentioned that the species occurs on reef sand, presumably of the southern shores and the islands offshore, and additionally recorded two old dead buried shells at Telok Paku (Changi). The continued presence of the species in Singapore waters is confirmed by the featured example.

References:

- Chuang S. H., 1973. Sea shells. In: Chuang S. H. (ed.), *Animal Life and Nature in Singapore*. Singapore University Press, Singapore. pp. 175–201.
- Pilsbry, H. A., 1893. Polyplacophora (Chitons) Acanthochitidae, Cryptoplacidae and appendix. Tectibranchiata. In: Tryon, G. W., *Manual of Conchology, Structural and Systematic, with Illustrations of the Species. Volume 15*. Philadelphia: Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. 436 pp + 61 pls.



Photograph by Toh Chay Hoon

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