Knobbly seastar on the shores of Tanah Merah


Subject identified by: Tan Yi Mei & Siti Maryam Yaakub.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Tanah Merah beach at approximately 2 km east of Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal; 6 July 2015; 0739 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Sandy shore of the lower intertidal zone with seagrass.

Observers: Tan Yi Mei & Siti Maryam Yaakub.

Observation: A young adult example with a radius of about 8 cm (see attached photograph) was observed during low tide (about 0.2 m CD) exposed on a sandy substrate adjacent to a bed of the seagrass *Halophila ovalis*.

Remarks: The knobbly seastar is commonly found in seagrass habitats and shallow sandy areas (Clark & Rowe, 1971; Bos et al., 2008), and is classified as ‘endangered’ in Singapore (Lane, 2008). It is rarely observed along the shores of the Singapore main island, and this appears to be a first sighting record for Tanah Merah.

References:

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