

## New Guinea flatworm *Platydemus manokwari* in Singapore

**Subjects:** New Guinea flatworm, *Platydemus manokwari* (Platyhelminthes: Geoplanidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island -

1) Pasir Laba, compound of Singapore Armed Forces Training Institute by the Singapore Discovery Centre building; 24 February 2006, around 2200 hrs.

2) Rifle Range Road, along Kampong Trail; 15 August 2009; around 2220 – 2227 hrs.

**Habitat:** Edge of secondary forest (both locations).

**Observers:** Contributor and others.

**Observation:** Sightings of three individuals, each between 4 and 6 cm in length, as follows –

1) One example on concrete footpath in a small patch of woodland in the compound of the Singapore Discovery Centre.

2) Two individuals, each found at different spots along the Kampong Trail, crawling on leaf litter on a concrete lined footpath at the edge of young secondary forest.

**Remarks:** Apparently native to New Guinea, *Platydemus manokwari* is said to be among the 100 of the world's worst invasive species. This predator of land snails is believed to pose a risk to endemic snails. It has been recorded from Singapore since 2010 from Chestnut Avenue and Admiralty Park, and henceforth from Tanah Merah, Sunset Way and Opera Estate (Justine et al., 2015).

**Reference:** Justine, J., L. Winsor, P. Barrière, C. Fanai, D. Gey, H. W. K. Han, G. La Quay-Velázquez, B. P. Y. Lee, J. Lefevre, J. Meyer, D. Philippart, D. G. Robinson, J. Thévenot & F. Tsatsia, 2015. The invasive land planarian *Platydemus manokwari* (Platyhelminthes: Geoplanidae): records from six new localities, including the first in the U.S.A. *Peer J* 3: e1037. <https://dx.doi.org/10.7717/peerj.1037>



Fig. 1. Example on concrete footpath from Pasir Laba on 24 February 2006.





Fig. 2. Example 1 from Kampong Trail 10:20 pm.



Fig. 3. Example 2 from Kampong Trail 10:27 pm.

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