Asian softshell turtle at Mandai west

**Subject:** Asian softshell turtle, *Amyda ornata* (Reptilia: Testudines: Trionychidae).

**Subject identified by:** Tan Heok Hui & Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, west of Mandai Lake Road; 5 August 2015, 1030 hrs.

**Habitat:** Freshwater in scrubland. Open country stream with slow flowing clear water, sand and silt substrates, and grassy banks.

**Observers:** Contributors.

**Observation:** A juvenile example, under 8 cm in carapace length (see accompanying picture), was spotted on the sandy bank of the stream.

**Remarks:** In Singapore, the Asian softshell turtle is found mainly in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (Baker & Lim, 2012: 126 as *Amyda cartilaginnea*) and regarded as a locally ‘endangered’ species (Lim, 2008: 266 as *Amyda cartilaginnea*). *Amyda cartilaginnea* is known to be a complex of several species and the form native to mainland Southeast Asia is believed to be *Amyda ornata* (see Fritz et al., 2014). The precise identity of the present individual is complicated by the possibility of it being from introduced stock, especially since it was found in a disturbed aquatic environment just outside the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (see Ng & Lim, 2010: 121 as *Amyda cartilaginnea*).

**References:**


Photograph by Liew Jia Huan