

## A Fly River turtle at the Singapore Botanic Gardens

**Subject:** Fly River turtle, *Carettochelys insculpta* (Reptilia: Testudines: Carettochelyidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Singapore Botanic Gardens, Eco Lake; 13 October 2015, 1322 hrs.

**Habitat:** Freshwater. Man-made lake with well-planted margins in urban parkland.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** One large specimen, estimated to be around 50 cm carapace length, was observed foraging in the shallows along the shore of the lake (see attached photographs).

**Remarks:** The aquatic Fly River turtle, also known as pig-nosed turtle, is native to the rivers of New Guinea and northern Australia. Hatchlings were imported into Singapore in the 1990s to be sold as pets, and large individuals are known to have been abandoned in the wild (Ng & Lim, 2010: 121). Skeletal remains have been found at MacRitchie Reservoir (Ng & Lim, 2010: 121) and at Tampines Quarry pond (Kwan, 2015).

### References:

Kwan, I. W. M., 2015. Skeletal remains of a pig-nosed turtle in Tampines Quarry. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2015: 95-96.

Ng T. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2010. Introduced aquatic herpetofauna of Singapore's reservoirs. *COSMOS*. 6 (1): 117-127.



Photographs by Muhammad Assiddiq bin Omar

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