

Asian soft shell turtle at Singapore Botanic Gardens

Subject: Asian soft shell turtle, *Amyda cartilaginea* (Reptilia: Testudines: Trionychidae).

Subject identified by: Lahiru S. Wijedasa.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Singapore Botanic Gardens, Swan Lake; 20 February 2013; 1305 hrs.

Habitat: Artificial freshwater lake in urban parkland.

Observer: Lim Yaohui.

Observation: A large softshell turtle of about 40 cm carapace length was found on a foot-path at least 1 m above the edge of the lake.

Remarks: The subject was believed to have been stranded on the foot-path after an exceptionally heavy downpour which caused the water in the lake to overflow its edges, and flooding the adjacent elevated footpath.

Amyda cartilaginea is known to be a complex of multiple species (Fritz et al., 2014). Without a thorough examination of the featured individual, it is not possible to determine its specific identity. This is compounded by the strong possibility that the specimen is not native to Singapore considering the artificial environment where it was found (see Ng & Lim, 2010).



Photograph by Lim Yaohui

References:

- Fritz, U., R. Gemel, C. Kehlmaier, M. Vamberger & P. Praschag, 2014. Phylogeography of the Asian softshell turtle *Amyda cartilaginea* (Boddaert, 1770): evidence for a species complex. *Vertebrate Zoology*. 64 (2): 229-243.
- Ng T. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2010. Introduced aquatic herpetofauna of Singapore's reservoirs. *COSMOS*. 6 (1): 117-127.

Contributors: Lahiru S. **Wijedasa** & **Lim Yaohui**
Contact address: lahirux@gmail.com (Wijedasa)