

A Fly River turtle in MacRitchie Reservoir

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

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, MacRitchie Reservoir, off boardwalk along southern shore about 150 m from the gazebo; 17 February 2017; 1102 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater lake surrounded by secondary forest and parkland.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: One example of about 50 cm carapace length was observed swimming parallel to the edge of the reservoir, about 4 m from the shore. The accompanying picture shows a dorsal view of the turtle fully submerged.

Remarks: There have been several records of this non-native aquatic turtle in Singapore, including skeletal remains from the shore of MacRitchie Reservoir (Ng & Lim, 2010: 121) and in Tampines Quarry (Kwan, 2015), as well as a live example in the Eco Lake of the Singapore Botanic Gardens (Muhammad Assiddiq, 2015).

References:

- Kwan, I. W. M., 2015. Skeletal remains of a pig-nosed turtle in Tampines Quarry. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2015: 95-96.
- Muhammad Assiddiq bin Omar, 2015. A Fly River turtle at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2015: 162.
- Ng T. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2010. Introduced aquatic herpetofauna of Singapore's reservoirs. *COSMOS*. 6 (1): 117-127.



Photograph by Nick Baker

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