

First record of Fearnley's coral shell, *Coralliophila fearnleyi*, in Singapore

Subjects: Fearnley's coral shell, *Coralliophila fearnleyi* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Muricidae: Coralliophilinae).

Subjects identified by: Tan Siong Kiat.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, western end of East Coast Park; 16 November 2016, around 1800 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Seawall of granite boulders and rocks during low tide.

Observers: Contributors, with Kate Pocklington and others.

Observation: Three examples of about 30-40 mm shell length, were found together in a shallow depression of a boulder at a part of the seawall where sessile marine organisms appear to be abundant. The shells were heavily encrusted by worm tubes and calcareous algae, and could not be positively identified in the field. The specimens were deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore, and registered as ZRC.MOL.9091.

Remarks: The shells could only be positively identified after much of the encrustations were removed (see accompanying picture). This appears to be the first record of *Coralliophila fearnleyi* in Singapore. It has not been documented from Singapore in past studies (e.g., Way & Purchon, 1981; Tan & Woo, 2010; Sanpanich & Tan, 2016). It is the second species of the genus to be recorded in Singapore after *Coralliophila rubrococcinea* was reported by Wong (2008).

Coralliophila fearnleyi was first described (as *Latiaxis fearnleyi*) based on specimens obtained from Queensland, Australia (Emerson & D'Attilio, 1965). It is widely distributed throughout the central part of the Indo-West Pacific, or Indo-Malayan, region, and has been reported from Japan, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia (Kosuge & Suzuki, 1985; Dharma, 2005; Thach, 2005). Members of the genus have been linked to retardation in coral growth, and there is substantial evidence to indicate that *Coralliophila fearnleyi* preys on hard corals (Matsushima et al., 2008).

References:

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Apertural (left; shell height 31.9 × shell width 19.7 mm) and abapertural (right; shell height 40.2 × shell width 22.6 mm) views of two examples of *Coralliophila fearnleyi* (ZRC.MOL.9091) from East Coast Park. Note that the shells have been cleaned of encrustations. Photograph by Tan Siong Kiat