

A find of articulate harp shell, *Harpa articularis*, at Changi

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Subject: Articulate harp shell, *Harpa articularis* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Harpidae).

Subject identified by: Tan Siong Kiat.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Changi, beach along Tanah Merah Coast Road; 9 Aug.2006; late morning.

Habitat: Littoral. Along the strandline of a sandy beach slope.

Observer: [Collected by] Tan Siong Kiat.

Observation: A broken and rather weathered shell measuring 52 mm in shell height (see accompanying picture showing the specimen's ventral side), was found amongst debris at the strandline. It was deposited as a voucher in the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore, under the registration number ZRC.MOL.10187.

Remarks: The specimen is quite badly broken and much of the colour and pattern are lost. However, the shell characteristics of *Harpa articularis* such as the narrow ribs marked with groups of brown lines and the large brown blotch at the columella, faded to an orangey-brown, are still visible (see Rehder, 1973; Abbott, 1991).

Hitherto the major harp, *Harpa major*, was the only species of *Harpa* reported from Singapore, where it is listed as nationally endangered (see Chou et al., 1994; Chou & Tan, 2008). This find represents the first record of *Harpa articularis* and the second species of the genus in Singapore. However it is uncertain if the specimen is native to the country, or introduced with sand imported from elsewhere for reclamation.

References:

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- Chou L. M. & K. S. Tan, 2008. Corals, worms and molluscs. In: Davidson, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book: Threatened Plants and Animals of Singapore*. Second Edition. The Nature Society (Singapore), Singapore. pp. 39-61.
- Rehder, H. A., 1973. The family Harpidae of the world. *Indo-Pacific Mollusca*. 3 (16): 207-274.



Photograph by Tan Siong Kiat