

## First Singapore record of Venus clam, *Pitar lineolatus*

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**Subject:** Venus clam, *Pitar lineolatus* (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Veneridae).

**Subject identified by:** Tan Siong Kiat and Chan Sow-Yan.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Tanah Merah; 13-16 December 2016; late afternoon.

**Habitat:** Marine. Muddy sand flat with patches of seagrass.

**Observers:** Authors and others.

**Observation:** A freshly dead articulate empty shell of *Pitar lineolatus* measuring 17 mm in shell length was encountered in a patch of seagrass exposed during low tide. The right valve bears a borehole typical of predation by a moon snail (see accompanying figure). The specimen is deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore, and catalogued as ZRC.MOL.10186.

**Remarks:** *Pitar lineolatus* is actually not exceedingly rare in Singapore, and the authors have previously encountered the occasional specimens around the Changi area. However, its occurrence in Singapore has apparently never been published before (e.g., Morris & Purchon, 1981; Tan & Woo, 2010). Hence, the present record is regarded as the first for Singapore.

### References:

- Morris, S. & R. D. Purchon, 1981. The marine shelled Mollusca of West Malaysia and Singapore. Part 3, Bivalvia. *Journal of Molluscan Studies*. 47 (3): 322–327.
- Tan S. K. & H. P. M. Woo, 2010. *A preliminary checklist of the molluscs of Singapore*. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 78 pp.



Exterior (left) and interior (right) views of the shell halves of *Pitar lineolatus* (ZRC.MOL.10186). Note the borehole on the shell valve on the right. Photograph by Tan Siong Kiat