

Presence of the snail, *Hemiplecta humphreysiana*, at the Botanic Gardens

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Subjects: *Hemiplecta humphreysiana* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Ariophantidae).

Subjects identified by: Marcus F. C. Ng & Tan Siong Kiat.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, rainforest patch at Singapore Botanic Gardens; 23 November 2017; around 2200 hrs.

Habitat: Small remnant patch of lowland rainforest surrounded by urban parkland.

Observer: Marcus F. C. Ng.

Observations: Two individuals, one about 5 cm shell diameter (Fig. 1), the other about 3 cm shell diameter (Fig. 2), were found in a section of the forest patch with heavy liana growth and rich fungal colonies. They were observed on a liana branch at about 1.8 m from the ground.

Remarks: The author had not previously encountered *Hemiplecta humphreysiana* at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, and the featured examples may be the first record of the species there. In Singapore, this terrestrial snail attains a maximum shell diameter of 5 cm, and is restricted to forests. It occurs mainly in the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves, and has recently been recorded from the Western Catchment Area (Tan & Chua, 2015: 10). The shells of adult snails have a characteristic reddish or dark brown spiral line just below the periphery (although not visible in Fig. 1), and the shells of young examples have an acutely keeled periphery (Fig. 2) (Tan et al., 2012: 113).



Fig. 1. The larger snail (5 cm shell diameter).



Fig. 2. The smaller example (3 cm shell diameter).

Photographs by Marcus F. C. Ng

References:

- Tan S. K., S. Y. Chan & G. R. Clements, 2012. *A Guide to Snails and other Non-marine Molluscs of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre. 176 pp.
- Tan S. K. & M. A. H. Chua, 2015. Land snail *Hemiplecta humphreysiana* in Western Catchment Area. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2015: 10.