

## An unknown ariophantid semi-slug in Singapore

**Subjects:** Semi-slug, *Microparmarion* sp. (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Ariophantidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Tan Siong Kiat & David G. Robinson.

**Locations, dates and time:** Singapore Island –

1) Singapore Botanic Gardens, rainforest trail; 5 November 2016; around 1600-1700 hrs.

2) Chestnut Avenue, compound of a private condominium; May-June 2017; between 1900-2200 hrs.

**Habitat:** Small patch of lowland rainforest surrounded by urban parkland (Singapore Botanic Gardens). Urban garden within the compound of a condominium (Chestnut Avenue).

**Observers:** Lau Wing Lup (Singapore Botanic Gardens) & Iffah Iesa (Chestnut Avenue).

**Observations:** Two separate sightings -

1) An example of around 25 mm long was noticed crawling on the forest floor beside a raised boardwalk of the rainforest trail on a rainy afternoon (Fig. 1). A subsequent visual search along the length of the trail revealed several more individuals on dead leaves and wood under vegetation at different sections of the trail.

2) One individual was first noticed on a wall of a concrete planter. Thereafter, impromptu searches were made on a few nights, during which more than a dozen individuals between 20 and 30 mm were located amongst leaf litter and bushes, and on the wall (Fig. 2). Some of these specimens were collected for study and deposited under the registration number ZRC.MOL.10190 in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore.

**Remarks:** The semi-slugs seem to be quite common at the locations where they have been observed. This species is presumed to have been recently introduced since it is very unlikely that a relatively large and apparently locally common species has been overlooked in previous studies on terrestrial molluscs in Singapore (e.g., Lim, 1969; Ho, 1995; Tan et al., 2012). More surveys are needed to determine if these slugs have become common and widespread in other parts of the island. It is thus hoped that readers will come forward with information if they encounter this semi-slug, which can be recognised by its 'rough' (tubercles all over the dorsal part of its body except its head) appearance.

This semi-slug is provisionally identified as a member of the genus *Microparmarion*. It may be *Microparmarion austeni* or a similar species (see Simroth, 1893). However, further research is required to confirm its identity.

### References:

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Simroth, H., 1893. Ueber einige Parmarion-Arten. *Zoologische Ergebnisse einer Reise in Niederlandisch Ost-Indien*. 3: 100-110, pls. 7-8.

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Contributors: **Tan Siong Kiat**, **Iffah Iesa** & **Lau Wing Lup**

Contact address: [nhmtsk@nus.edu.sg](mailto:nhmtsk@nus.edu.sg) (Tan)



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of a semi-slug of around 20 mm length along the rainforest trail at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Photograph by Lau Wing Lup



Fig. 2. Dorsal view of a semi-slug of around 25 mm length at Chestnut Avenue. Photograph by Iffah Iesa