

Two species of venus clams new to Singapore

Subjects: Venus clam, *Antigona chemnitzii* (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Veneridae);
Venus clam, *Hyphantosoma intricatum* (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Veneridae).

Subjects identified by: Tan Siong Kiat.

Locations, dates and time: Singapore Strait –

1) *Antigona chemnitzii*: Terumbu Hantu (01°13.514'N 103°44.784'E); 1 June.2013; around 1100-1200 hrs.

2) *Hyphantosoma intricatum*: Pulau Jong (01°12.902'N 103°47.142'E); 4 June 2013; around 1130-1230 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Subtidal coral reef at depth of between 10 and 15 m.

Observers: Collected by participants of the Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey (CMBS).

Observations: Two venus shell species from CMBS material deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore, are identified and catalogued as *Antigona chemnitzii* and *Hyphantosoma intricatum*. All specimens were found as articulate empty shells, and based on their relatively pristine condition, were presumed to have died shortly before the time of collection.

The two examples of *Antigona chemnitzii* of shell lengths 47.1 and 48.0 mm (ZRC.MOL.10068) were collected from Terumbu Hantu, a submerged reef off western Pulau Hantu. One of the specimens is shown on Fig. 1.

A single *Hyphantosoma intricatum* of shell length 63.4 mm (ZRC.MOL.10069) was collected off the southwestern side of Pulau Jong. The specimen is illustrated on Fig. 2.

Remarks: These two venus clam species have not been previously reported from Singapore in the literature (e.g., Morris & Purchon, 1981; Tan & Woo, 2010), and are thus regarded as first records. However it is uncertain if the record of a very similar-looking species, *Antigona lamellaris*, by Morris & Purchon (1981) could be a previous misidentification of *Antigona chemnitzii*. *Antigona lamellaris* can be distinguished by its more strongly frilled lamellae and elongate shell shape with a more pointed anterior (see Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992; Huber, 2010).

References:

- Huber, M., 2010. *Compendium of bivalves. A full-color guide to 3,300 of the world's marine bivalves. A status on Bivalvia after 250 years of research.* Conchbooks, Hackenheim. 901 pp. + CD-ROM.
- Lamprell, K. & T. Whitehead, 1992. *Bivalves of Australia. Volume 1.* Crawford House Press, Bathurst, New South Wales. 182 pp.
- 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.

Note: This is a contribution of the **Singapore Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey** conducted by the National University of Singapore's Tropical Marine Science Institute and the National Parks Board.

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Fig. 1. *Antigona chemnitzii* (ZRC.MOL.10068), shell length 48.0 mm, showing the exterior of left shell valve (left) and the interior of the right shell valve (right). Margins of muscle scars, pallial line and sinus on interior surface highlighted with pencil lines.



Fig. 2. *Hyphantosoma intricatum* (ZRC.MOL.10069), shell length 63.4 mm, showing the exterior of left shell valve (left) and the interior of the right shell valve (right). Margins of muscle scars, pallial line and sinus on interior surface highlighted with pencil lines.

Photographs by Tan Siong Kiat