

## Cone snail, *Conus characteristicus*, at East Coast Park

Royston Koh Lai Peng

[roystonkohlp@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:roystonkohlp@yahoo.com.sg)

**Subject:** Characteristic cone, *Conus characteristicus* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Conidae).

**Subject identified by:** Royston Koh Lai Peng.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, East Coast Park, area G; 18 June 2018; 0726 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Intertidal zone of a sandy beach.

**Observer:** Royston Koh Lai Peng.

**Observation:** A small mound was noticed on the otherwise flat surface of the lower part of the beach slope exposed during a morning low tide. From just beneath the surface of the mound, a live *Conus characteristicus* of about 4 cm shell length was dug out (see accompanying figure showing the side of the shell with the aperture).

**Remarks:** *Conus characteristicus* is widely distributed from the Bay of Bengal to Japan and the Philippines (Röckel et al., 1995). It is probably rare in Singapore as there are very few mentions of its occurrence there in the literature. A specimen purportedly from Singapore, but without any other information, is figured in Lim & Wee (1992). The species is also mentioned in Chou et al. (1994) which was reiterated by Tan & Woo (2010), but without further information and possibly based on the same record. The present find confirms the continuing presence of this species in Singapore today.

Perhaps more interestingly, this sighting could be the first published record of a living cone snail on the main island of Singapore in more than half a century. Recent previous reports with accompanying locality information seem to always refer to cone snails found in the southern islands thus far (e.g., Way & Purchon, 1981; Toh, 2014; Toh et al., 2014).

### References:

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Photograph by Royston Koh