Three species of scallops found in beach debris at Changi

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Subjects: Volachlamys singaporina (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Pectinidae);
Decatopecten plica (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Pectinidae);
Decatopecten amiculum (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Pectinidae).

Subjects identified by: Chan Sow-Yan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Changi Beach; 9 December 2018; late afternoon.

Habitat: Estuarine beach. Found ex-situ as beach debris, during low tide.

Observer: Chan Sow-Yan.

Observation: Dead shells of the three species of scallops (see accompanying picture) were found together within a 3 m stretch of beach debris washed up at low tide of 0.5 m.

Remarks: Of the three species recorded in this observation, Decatopecten amiculum is a new record for Singapore (see Tan & Woo, 2010). Decatopecten plica is cited as one of its synonyms, Decatopecten velutinus, in Tan & Woo (2010). A third species, Decatopecten radula (as Comptopallium radula in Tan & Woo, 2010), also occurs in Singapore.

All the shells featured here are likely to have been dislodged from their attached substrates, probably by heavy surfs during the year end monsoon. These substrates are usually heavier objects like stones or dead shells in meadows of seaweed.