

## The non-native Siamese snail at Telok Blangah Hill Park

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**Subjects:** Siamese snail, *Cryptozonia siamensis* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Conidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Tan Siong Kiat.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Telok Blangah Hill Park; 30 May 2019; 0943 hrs.

**Habitat:** Parkland with secondary forest.

**Observers:** Rena Tan Hui Shan & Joy Wong Shu Yee.

**Observation:** Several Siamese snails, around 15 to 20 mm in shell diameter (Fig. 1 & 2), were observed on large leaved plants (possibly *Alocasia macrorrhizos*) along a walkway at the edge of secondary forest. The plants and surroundings were wet after a spell of rain earlier in the morning. Many of the snails were crawling along the edges of leaves, and probably grazing on the surface. Except for a small Marten's Parmarion semi-slug (*Parmarion martensi*) no other snails or slugs were seen on the leaves.

**Remarks:** Although this is merely the third record of the non-native Siamese snail in Singapore, the present observation of an apparently established population well away from previously reported localities suggests that this species is already established in Singapore and is likely more widespread than previously thought (see Tan & Lee, 2019). There are no signs of recent landscaping work or plantings in the vicinity to indicate a recent inadvertent introduction of this snail.

Snails in general do not receive much attention from the public, so it is unsurprising that introduced species can escape notice for quite some time. However, citizen science could provide the necessary data to determine the status and distribution of the Siamese snail in Singapore more accurately and we hope readers will come forward with information and photographs should they encounter this snail. Fortunately, distinguishing the Siamese snail from other species in Singapore with a similarly discoidal shell is relatively easy. The Siamese snail is easily identifiable by its two-toned shell (darker on top), that is usually separated by a reddish brown band, and has distinct reticulate sculpture on the upper surface (see Fig. 1; for more details see also Tan et al., 2016).

### References:

- Tan S. K., S. Y. Chan, L. H. S. Nguang & M. E. Y. Low, 2016. Making its way down the Peninsula: discovery of the non-native *Cryptozonia siamensis* (L. Pfeiffer, 1856) in Singapore, with a note on its status in Peninsular Malaysia (Helicarionoidea: Ariophantidae). *Occasional Molluscan Papers*. 5: 1-9.
- Tan S. K. & B. Y. Lee, 2019. Second record of the non-native Siamese snail in Singapore. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2019: 24-25.



Fig. 1. Siamese snail on the surface of a leaf at Telok Blangah Hill Park. The reticulate sculpture on the dorsal part, and the darker reddish brown spiral band separating the two tones of the shell is clearly visible.



Fig. 2. Another individual of Siamese snail at Telok Blangah Hill Park. The smooth underside of its shell (without reticulate sculpture) is visible from this angle. The vein lines and bands are parts of the animal's soft parts showing through the translucent shell.

Photographs by Rena Tan Hui Shan