

A fig drill, *Orania ficula*, at Changi Beach

Chan Sow-Yan, Lau Wing Lup & Tan Siong Kiat

chansowyan@gmail.com (Chan), suiseki1984@yahoo.com.sg (Lau)

Subject: Fig drill, *Orania ficula* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Muricidae).

Subject identified by: Chan Sow-Yan, Lau Wing Lup and Tan Siong Kiat.

Location, date and time: Johor Strait at Changi Beach Park, 25 January 2020 at 1739 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine shore. On intertidal rocks.

Observers: Chan Sow-Yan and Lau Wing Lup.

Observation: One live example of about 2 cm shell height was found among barnacles, keel worms and other marine encrusting organisms (Fig. 1). Its shell was encrusted with calcareous marine organisms including a barnacle (Fig. 1). The foot of the live *Orania ficula* is yellowish and black-speckled, and the aperture and columella of the shell are purple (Fig. 2 & 3). Fig. 4-6 show the shell after the encrusting organisms were removed.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of a live *Orania ficula* in-situ (circled in red) with a barnacle on its shell, among encrusting organisms. Photograph by Lau Wing Lup



Fig.2: Close up of *Orania ficula* foot.



Fig. 3. Exposed foot of the live snail. Note the shell's coarse growth lines.



Fig. 4. Lateral view of shell.



Fig.5. Aperture view of shell.



Fig. 6. Dorsal view of shell. Distance between the black bars is 1 mm.

Photographs by Lau Wing Lup

Remarks: *Orania ficula* is rarely treated in the literature. Although not a new record for Singapore (see Tan & Woo, 2010), it does not seem to have been figured before.

Other records from Singapore include the following by the contributors: 1) Three shells inhabited by hermit crabs found at Changi Beach Park on 6 October 1994. 2) One live example at Changi East, Red Cliff Shoal, on 30 August 2006. 3) Eight live examples found attached to small rocks at mid to low tide-lines at Changi East, Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal area, on 6 January 2007. 4) One shell inhabited by hermit crab at East Coast Park on wave-breakers 15 to 16, on 2 November 2018.

Reference: Tan SK & Woo HPM (2010) A preliminary checklist of the Molluscs of Singapore. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 78 pp.