

Recent sightings of the textile cone in Singapore

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Subjects: Textile cone, *Conus textile* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Conidae).

Subjects identified by: Tan Siong Kiat.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait at Sisters Islands Marine Park, around Pulau Subar Laut (Big Sister's Island); 22 May 2017 at 1244 hrs and 9 March 2020 at 1750 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef. On reef slope at depth of around 8 m, and on reef flat exposed during low tide.

Observers: Tan Heok Hui and Ron K. H. Yeo.

Observation: Two live specimens, both with a shell length of about 10 cm, were photographed at Pulau Subar Laut.

1. On 22 May 2017, Tan Heok Hui photographed an individual crawling on the substrate of a reef slope during slack tide (Fig. 1 & 2).
2. On 9 March 2020, Ron Yeo found one example exposed on the fringing reef flat during low tide (Fig. 3 & 4).

Remarks: *Conus textile* is widely distributed throughout the Indo-Pacific (Röckel et al., 1995). While this species has been mentioned from Singapore in several publications indicating that it was possibly reasonably common locally in the past (see Tan & Woo, 2010 and references therein cited), there appears to have been no sightings of live specimens in the past few decades. The last reliable specimen-based record is possibly Way & Purchon's (1981) report from Raffles Lighthouse, but their record was in fact based on surveys undertaken from 1953 to 1960 (see Purchon & Purchon, 1981).

The recent encounters featured here confirm the continuing presence of this species in Singapore. Considering the similar shell sizes and differences in shell patterns, the sightings of this species at Sisters Islands Marine Park, nearly three years apart, are unlikely to be of the same animal.



Fig. 1. Apertural view of the live cone shell, in-situ.



Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of the live cone shell, in-situ.

Photographs by Tan Heok Hui



Fig. 3. Apertural view of live cone shell on reef flat, in-situ. Fig. 4. Dorsal view of live cone shell on reef flat, in-situ.

Photographs by Ron K. H. Yeo

References:

- Purchon RD & Purchon DEA (1981) The marine shelled Mollusca of West Malaysia and Singapore. Part 1. General introduction and an account of the collecting stations. *Journal of Molluscan Studies*, 47 (3): 290-312.
- Röckel D, Korn W & Kohn AJ (1995) *Manual of the living Conidae. Volume 1: Indo-Pacific Region.* Verlag Christa Hemmen, Germany. 517 pp.
- Tan SK & Woo HPM (2010) A Preliminary Checklist of the Molluscs of Singapore. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 78 pp.
- Way K & Purchon RD (1981) The marine shelled Mollusca of West Malaysia and Singapore. Part 2. Polyplacophora and Gastropoda. *Journal of Molluscan Studies*, 47 (3): 313-321.

Note: The specimen featured on Fig. 1 & 2 was photographed during the Bioblitz event conducted by the National Parks Board in May 2017 at the Sisters Islands Marine Park.