

New record of heart urchin, *Brissopsis luzonica*, in Singapore

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Subject: Heart urchin, *Brissopsis luzonica* (Echinodermata: Echinoidea: Spatangoida: Brissidae).

Subject identified by: Camilla Souto, Teresa Stephanie Tay and Neo Mei Lin.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, off Pulau Hantu north; 17 October 2020; around 1600 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Subtidal silty bottom, at a depth of about 11 m.

Observer: Toh Chay Hoon.

Observation: A denuded heart urchin test with a test length of around 7 cm was found on the substrate (see accompanying picture). Only the aboral side of urchin test was observed, as the test was highly brittle and crumbled when handled.

Remarks: Heart urchins are also known as the irregular echinoids due to their oval-shaped tests. *Brissopsis luzonica* grows to 8 cm (Schultz, 2017) and inhabits depths from 5-10 m down to about 1,500-1,788 m (Lane et al., 2000; Mooi & Munguia, 2014). It is widely distributed across the Indo-Pacific (Smith & Kroh, 2011), and has been reported from the South China Sea region (Lane et al., 2000).

Brissopsis luzonica is a new record for Singapore (see Lane & Van den Spiegel, 2003). It joins four other species: *Lovenia elongata*, *Maretia planulata*, *Metalia spatagus* and *Brissus latecarinatus*, that are already on the country's list of heart urchins (Lane & Van den Spiegel, 2003; Neo et al., 2020; Tan et al., 2020).



Dorsal view of the heart urchin test, in-situ. Photograph by Toh Chay Hoon

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