

First Singapore record of the surf clam, *Mactra maculata*

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Subject: Surf clam, *Mactra maculata* (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Mactridae).

Subject identified by: Chan Sow-Yan.

Location, date and time: Sentosa Island; 21 August 2020; 0605 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Intertidal shore, muddy sand substrate.

Observer: Calvin Jiah Jay Leow.

Observation: A live specimen measuring 58 mm in shell length was found semi-buried in muddy sand among sparse *Halophila ovalis* during low tide (Fig. 1). It was exposed for photography to show the characteristic colour patterns on both shell halves (Fig. 2 & 3).



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

Photographs by Calvin Jiah Jay Leow

Remarks: This is not one of the seven species of *Mactra* previously recorded from Singapore (Tan & Woo, 2010; Wong, 2009), and therefore constitutes a first record of *Mactra maculata* in the country. *Mactra maculata* is distinguished from its congeners in Singapore by the irregular mottled tan rays and dots on its shell (see Lamprell & Whitehead, 1992).

References:

Lamprell K & Whitehead T (1992) Bivalves of Australia. Volume 1. Crawford House Press, Bathurst, Australia. Xiii + 182 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.

Wong HW (2009) The Mactridae (Mollusca: Bivalvia) of East Coast Park, Singapore. Nature in Singapore, 2: 283-296.