

## Biodiversity Record: Bubble shells of the genus *Haloa* at Pasir Ris

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**Subjects:** Bubble shell, *Haloa* sp. (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Haminoeidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Chan Sow-Yan and Lau Wing Lup.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Pasir Ris Park, near mouth of Sungei Tampines; 18 September 2021 around 1550 hrs, and 8 October 2021 around 1745 hrs.

**Habitat:** Estuarine. Intertidal zone of mangrove fringed shore.

**Observers:** Lau Wing Lup and Chan Sow-Yan

**Observations:** On 18 September 2021, about four dead shells were found among shell grit at the base of granite breakwaters. On 8 October 2021, about 20 freshly dead shells (Fig. 1) were spotted on muddy sand among sea grass during low tide. Although no live examples were found on both days, some specimens found on the second trip were noted to have decaying flesh in the recesses of the shells.



Fig. 1. Some of the *Haloa* sp. shells found during low tide at Pasir Ris on 8 October 2021. Space between black bars = 1 mm. (Photograph by: Lau Wing Lup).



Fig. 2. Dorsal (A) and apertural (B) views of *Haloa* sp. shells (adult on left, juvenile on right). The inner whorl of the juvenile specimen can be seen through its thin and translucent shell. Space between black bars = 1 mm. (Photographs by: Lau Wing Lup).

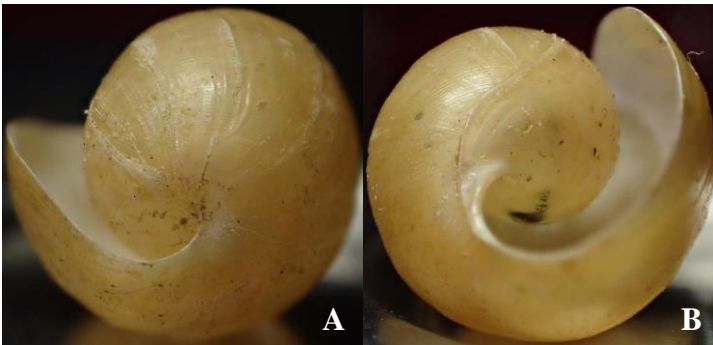


Fig. 3. Apical (A) and umbilical (B) views of an adult *Haloa* sp. shell. Note the thin white band on the peristome. (Photographs by: Lau Wing Lup).

The species of *Haloa* featured (Figs. 2, 3) has a fragile and thin shell. The periostracum is pale yellow or pale brown. The micro sculpture on the external surface consists of closely spaced spiral striations which are crossed by irregular longitudinal growth lines. The columella callus is raised, thick and separated from the shell whorl by a narrow furrow. The largest shell specimen is 15 mm in height.

**Remarks:** The genus *Haloa* is a new record for Singapore (see Tan & Woo, 2010). Identification to species level is very difficult as the shells of different species tend to be similar in appearance (see Oskars & Malaquias, 2019). The featured shells bear a close resemblance to *Haloa aptei*, which was described by Bharate et al. (2018, as *Haminoea aptei*).

**Literature cited:**

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