

Biodiversity Record: Buffalo leech at Jurong Lake

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Subject: Asian buffalo leech, *Hirudinaria manillensis* (Annelida: Clitellata: Hirudinidae).

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

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Jurong Lake; 13 March 2022; around 1330 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater. Artificial lake in urban parkland, with shallow water and clay substrates, and shores lined with granite rocks.

Observer: Lau Wing Lup.

Observation: An example of about 5 cm (in relaxed state) was found stuck to the interior surface of a shell of a dead Ingalls' unionid clam (*Ensidens ingallsianus*) (Figs. 1 & 2). The shell was submerged in water and lying on the substrate near the lake shore.

Remarks: In Singapore, buffalo leeches occur in forest streams and appear to be uncommon. Some examples were recently recorded in the Mandai area (Serin et al., 2015; Tan & Yeo, 2015). The present record, however, is in an exposed, lentic environment. Although the animals are very similar in appearance, it is not certain if they are conspecific.

Literature cited:

Serin S, Law IS & Sankar A (2015) Freshwater leech at Mandai. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2015: 67.

Tan HH & Yeo JW (2015) Freshwater leech brooding behaviour. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2015: 83–84.



Asian buffalo leech, in-situ, on the interior surface of a shell valve of a freshwater clam. Fig. 1. Side view showing the yellow lateral stripe. Fig. 2. Top view showing the black mid-dorsal stripe. (Photographs by: Lau Wing Lup).