

First record of greenhouse frog in Singapore

Subject: Greenhouse frog, *Eleutherodactylus planirostris* (Amphibia: Anura: Eleutherodactylidae).

Subject identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Sembawang, suburban housing estate at the southern edge of Sembawang Park; 3 December 2015; 20.30hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland. No nearby water source known.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: A single example of about 2 cm snout-vent length was observed (see accompanying photograph). The frog sat still, but jumped into a nearby stretch of secondary vegetation after the photograph was taken.

Remarks: The greenhouse frog is native to Cuba, but has been introduced to other islands in the Caribbean (e.g. Jamaica, Grenada, Guadeloupe), south-eastern United States (e.g. Florida, Louisiana, Alabama), Mexico, Hawaii and Guam (Kraus, 2009: 162-163). This small frog can be recognised by its reddish eyes and feet without webbing and with long and thin toes with indistinct toepads. Its eggs are laid on land and hatch into froglets (Johnson, 2011; Somma, 2016).

This appears to be the first record of *Eleutherodactylus planirostris* in Singapore. The featured individual may have been accidentally imported with ornamental plants. It seems likely that more than one frog may be present in the area. However, further investigations are required to ascertain if this species has established a feral population in Singapore. Thus far, no further specimens have been detected at the site.

References:

- Johnson, S. A., 2011. University of Florida Wildlife - Johnson Lab. Florida's Frogs & Toads. <http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/frog/s/greenhousefrog.shtml>. Accessed on 20 February 2016.
- Kraus, F., 2009. *Alien Reptiles and Amphibians. A Scientific Compendium and Analysis*. Springer Science + Business Media B. V. xii + 563 pp.
- Somma, L. A., 2016. *Eleutherodactylus planirostris*. USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database. Gainesville, Florida. <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=61>. Accessed on 19 February 2016.



Photograph by David Groenewoud

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