

Reticulated swamp crab, *Parathelphusa reticulata*, in Springleaf watershed

Subject: Reticulated swamp crab, *Parathelphusa reticulata* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Gecarcinucidae).

Subject identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, periphery of Central Catchment Nature Reserve, stream in Springleaf watershed (draining to Lower Seletar Reservoir); 30 March 2017; 1300 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater. Stream with sandy-clay banks, clear flowing water, riparian vegetation, submerged leaf litter and root masses.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: One sub-adult male of 16.2 mm carapace width (see accompanying picture with a dorsal view of the subject), was found in the leaf litter among many individuals of the common stream crab, *Parathelphusa maculata*.

Remarks: *Parathelphusa reticulata* is endemic to Singapore (Ng, 1990). It is distinguished from its more common and widespread congener, *Parathelphusa maculata*, by the dark purplish blotches on its carapace and limbs. It was previously known only from within a small area of fresh water swamp forest in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (Ho et al., 2016).



Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

This appears to be the first record of this rare crab outside of the Nee Soon swamp forest. As the stream line in the present observation flows from the swamp forest, it is not surprising for *Parathelphusa reticulata* to be obtained there. However, it must be noted that the stream is most likely not a primary habitat for the species. *Parathelphusa reticulata* is regarded in IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered, due mainly to its extremely restricted distribution (Esser & Cumberlidge, 2008).

References:

- Esser, L. & N. Cumberlidge, 2008. *Parathelphusa reticulata*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2008: e.T13389A3885499. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T133989A3885499.en>. Accessed on 30 March 2017.
- Ho, J. K. I., S. J. Ramchunder, A. Memory, M. Theng, T. Li, E. Clews, Y. Cai, H. H. Tan & D. C. J. Yeo, 2016. *A Guide to the Freshwater Fauna of Nee Soon Swamp Forest*. Tropical Marine Science Institute, National University of Singapore. 139 pp.
- Ng, P. K. L., 1990. *Parathelphusa reticulata* spec. nov., a new species of freshwater crab from blackwater swamps in Singapore (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Gecarcinucoidea). *Zoologische Mededelingen*. 63 (18): 241-254.

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