

Snake pennywort, *Geophila repens*, at Kent Ridge

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Subjects: Snake pennywort, *Geophila repens* (Magnoliophyta: Rubiaceae).

Subjects identified by: Edmund Chia.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Kent Ridge Crescent; 14 March 2018; 1347 hrs.

Habitat: Managed vegetation in urban parkland.

Observer: Chua Keng Soon.

Observation: A small patch of *Geophila repens* (L.) I. M. Johnst., about 3 x 2 m in area, was found growing in semi-shade and on ground that was littered with fallen leaves and twigs (see accompanying picture). The plants were flowering and fruiting freely, and were creeping on moist ground beside a concrete footpath, on a slope, and under a row of *Syzygium myrtifolium* hedge.

Remarks: This native creeper with its star-shape pure white flower and bright orange-red fruit is regarded as nationally endangered (Chong et al, 2009). Its distribution in Singapore seems to favour the southern region of Singapore Island as all eight previous known populations are in the south (Teo 2010; Ooi 2014). The current population is an addition to this southern cluster.



Orange-red fruits and the star-shape white flower (inset) of *Geophila repens*. Photograph by Chua Keng Soon

References:

- Chong K. Y., H. T. W. Tan & R. T. Corlett, 2009. *A Checklist of the Total Vascular Plant Flora of Singapore: Native, Naturalised and Cultivated Species*. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 273 pp.
- Ooi Z. Y., 2014. The snake pennywort *Geophila repens* at Mount Faber Park. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 127-128.
- Teo S., B. R. Kurukulasuriya & H. T. W. Tan, 2010. The distribution and status in Singapore of the snake pennywort, *Geophila repens* (L.) I. M. Johnst. (Rubiaceae). *Nature in Singapore*. 3: 183–186.