

Biodiversity Record: Long-tailed macaque consuming apple snail

Jerome-Jon Renyi Tan

Email: jeromejonpaul@gmail.com

Recommended citation. Tan J-JR (2024) Biodiversity Record: Long-tailed macaque consuming apple snail. Nature in Singapore, 17: e2024007. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2024-0007

Subjects: Long-tailed macaque, *Macaca fascicularis* (Mammalia: Primates: Cercopithecidae);
Apple snail, *Pomacea canaliculata* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Ampullariidae).

Subjects identified by: Jerome-Jon Renyi Tan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve along the edge of Lower Peirce Reservoir, Oncospermum Trail; 23 December 2023; 1240 hrs.

Habitat: On wooden boardwalk along the shores of a freshwater lake, at the edge of secondary forest.

Observers: Jerome-Jon Renyi Tan and Nicole Alexandra Su-yin Dorville.

Observation: An adult macaque was observed consuming an apple snail on the boardwalk (Figs. 1 & 2). It had collected the aquatic mollusk from the water at the side of the boardwalk. Shortly before this sighting, the observer had noticed two discarded apple snail shells and snail innards along the edge of the boardwalk. These could have been left by the same monkey.

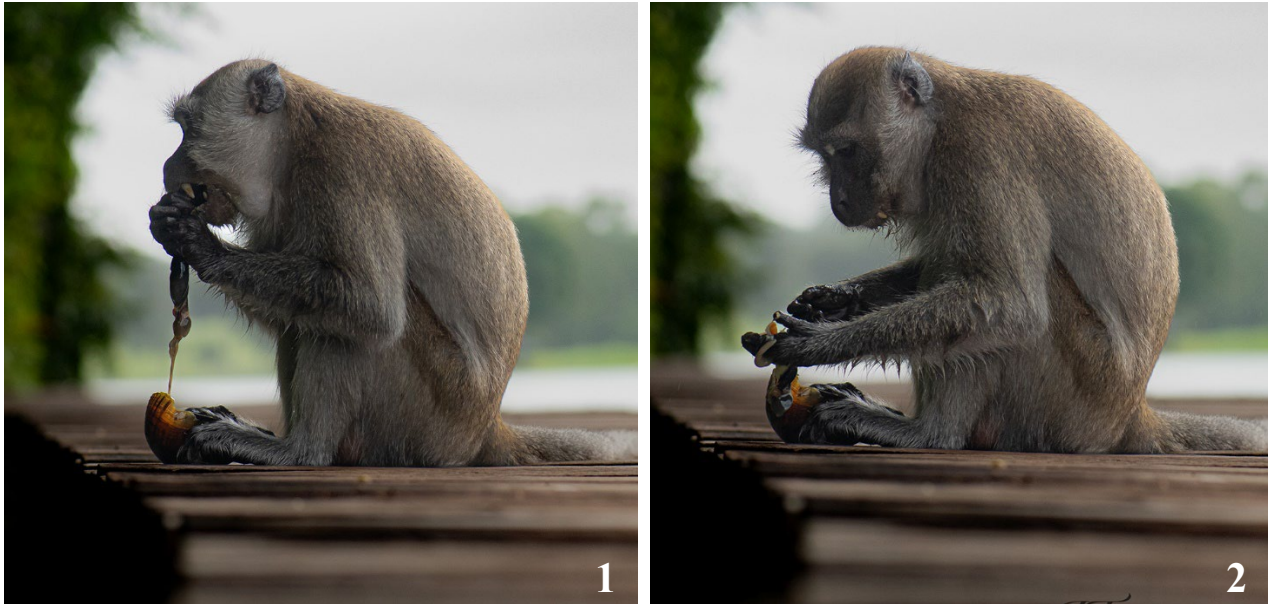


Fig. 1. Side view of long-tailed macaque eating the flesh and innards of an apple snail. Fig. 2. Macaque using its hands to extract the soft parts of the snail from its shell (Photographs by: Jerome-Jon Renyi Tan).

Remarks: This observation appears to be the second record in Singapore of long-tailed macaques collecting and eating apple snails. In March 2016, a group of four macaques were observed doing that, also along the shore of Lower Peirce Reservoir, but among rocks (Law, 2016). Aquatic snails appear to be an unusual component of the diet of long-tailed macaques. As this behaviour has apparently not been reported from elsewhere, it is not known if apple snails are generally relished by all long-tailed macaques, or if only certain individuals or groups have learnt to utilize this common and locally invasive aquatic delicacy.

Literature cited:

Law IS (2016) Long-tailed macaques eating apple snails. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2016: 90.