

Biodiversity Record: Matamata turtle at West Coast Park

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Subject: Matamata, *Chelus fimbriata* (Reptilia: Testudines: Chelidae).

Subject identified by: Jose Christopher Escano Mendoza.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, West Coast Park, marshland; 24 December 2020; around 1045 hrs.

Habitat: Artificial pond of brackish water surrounded by mangrove vegetation, in parkland.

Observer: Jose Christopher Escano Mendoza.

Observation: One example of about 15 cm carapace length (Fig. 1) was observed submerged in the water under a boardwalk.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of matamata turtle in-situ under the marshland boardwalk (Photograph by: Jose Christopher Escano Mendoza).

Remarks: The matamata is native to the freshwater drainages of tropical South America. The featured individual is likely to be an abandoned pet. In Singapore, *Chelus fimbriata* is considered a non-established introduced species (Figueroa et al., 2023). One other record from Singapore is based on a dried carapace of 38 cm found along the north-western shore of the MacRitchie Reservoir in October 2004 (Ng & Lim, 2010 as *Chelus fimbriatus*).

Literature cited:

Figueroa A, Low MEY & Lim KKP (2023) Singapore's herpetofauna: Updated and annotated checklist, history, conservation, and distribution. Zootaxa, 5287: 1–378.

Ng TH & Lim KKP (2010) Introduced aquatic herpetofauna of Singapore's reservoirs. COSMOS, 6: 117–127.