

Biodiversity Record: Tiger cowrie, *Cypraea tigris*, guarding eggs at Sentosa

Lee Bee Yan^{1*} & Riddian Jia Jun Chua²

¹Tropical Marine Science Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore 119227

²Research & Conservation, S.E.A. Aquarium, Resorts World at Sentosa, Singapore 098269

Email: tmslby@nus.edu.sg (*corresponding author), riddian.chua@rwsentosa.com

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Subject: Tiger cowrie, *Cypraea tigris* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Cypraeidae).

Subject identified by: Lee Bee Yan and Tan Siong Kiat.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Sentosa Island, Tanjong Rimau; 21 August 2024, around 0635 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef. On intertidal shore, among coral rubble, at low tide.

Observers: Lee Bee Yan and Riddian Jia Jun Chua.

Observation: A tiger cowrie of about 8 cm shell length, with a purplish-red egg mass, was found out of water in a crevice (Fig. 1).

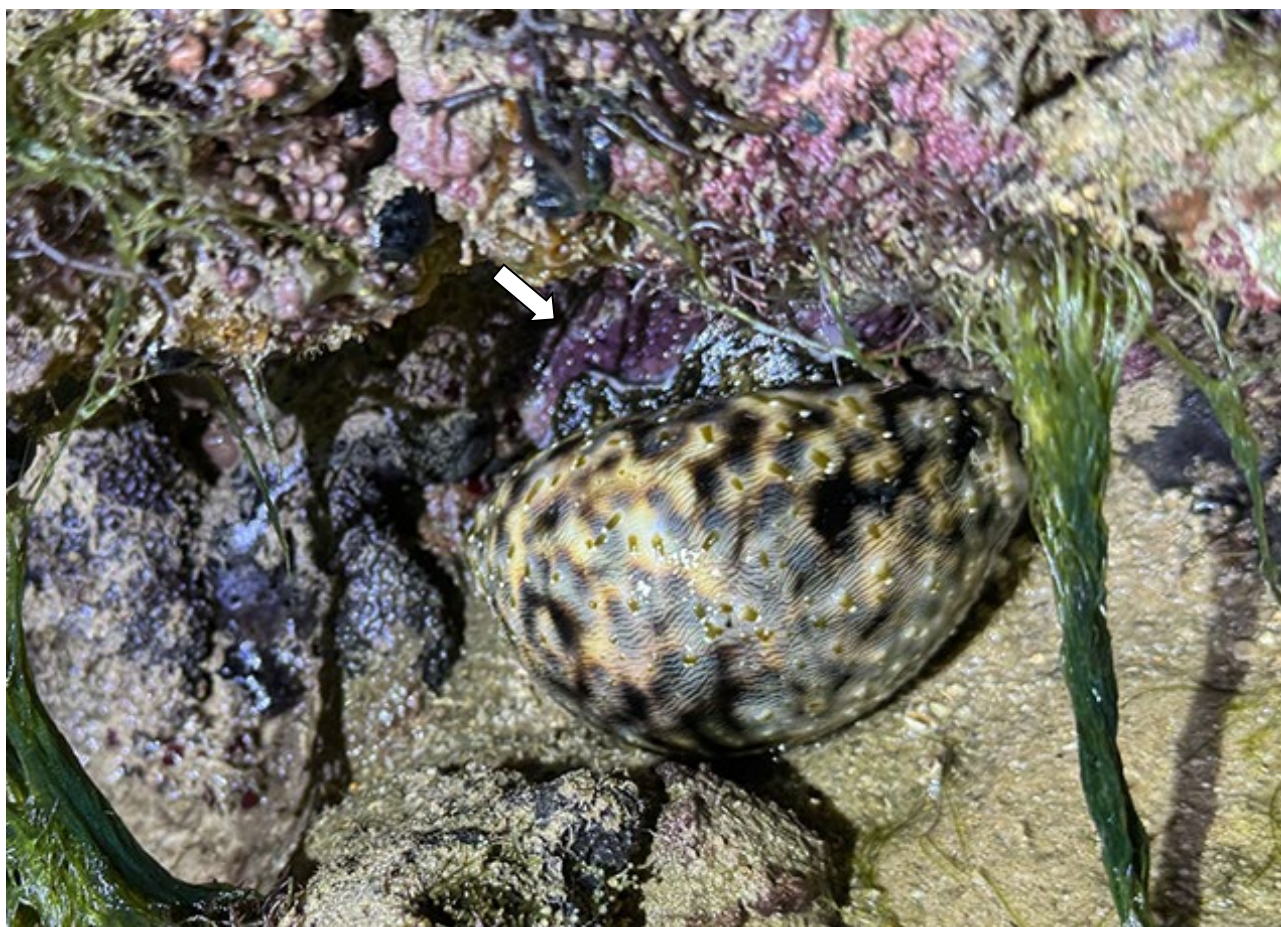


Fig. 1. Lateral view of brooding tiger cowrie with egg mass (indicated by arrow) in-situ (Photograph by: Lee Bee Yan).

Remarks: In Singapore, the tiger cowrie has been sighted on the southern shores at Sentosa, Pulau Tekukor, Pulau Semakau, and Pulau Biola (Tan, 2020). It is listed as a locally ‘vulnerable’ species (Tan & Tan, 2024) due to its apparent rarity and restriction to coral reef habitats (Tay et al., 2024).

This appears to be the first record of a tiger cowrie sitting on an egg mass in the wild in Singapore. Successful captive breeding of this species shows the larvae develop into juvenile forms approximately 42 days after hatching, and the colour of the egg mass being similar to that herein featured (Tay et al., 2023, 2024).

Acknowledgment: This sighting was recorded as part of a research collaborative project between Resorts World at Sentosa and the National University of Singapore.

Literature cited:

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