

Biodiversity Record: Green sea turtle at Labrador Nature Reserve

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Subject: Green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas* (Reptilia: Testudines: Cheloniidae).

Subject identified by: Cheyenne Mah, Gordon Damian Tan Kai En, and Raphael Moey Yanzhong.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait along Labrador Nature Reserve; 13 February 2025; around 1500 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Shallow sea over sargassum meadow, adjacent to a jetty.

Observers: Cheyenne Mah, Gordon Damian Tan Kai En, Raphael Moey Yanzhong, Nur Sorfina Binte Mohammed Shahfiran, Nur Irfah Binte Md Najib, Pathinettan Philemon, and Zane Li Xian Zhang.

Observation: An example estimated to be around 0.7–1m in length was observed surfacing 10–20 m from the observers who were standing on the jetty. The observers noted the turtle surfacing five times, each lasting a few seconds, with intervals of 5–10 minutes between each surfacing. The fourth surfacing incident was captured on camera (Fig 1). After the turtle submerged facing away from the shore following the fifth surfacing, the observers lost sight of it despite continued observation of the area for an additional 15 minutes.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the head of the subject as it surfaced (Photograph by: Raphael Moey Yanzhong).

Remarks: Of the two sea turtle species observed in the sea around Singapore, the green sea turtle appears to be considerably rarer than the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). The green sea turtle is regarded as endangered worldwide (Seminoff, 2023) and ‘critically endangered’ in Singapore (Davison et al., 2023). Apparently only eight sightings of *Chelonia mydas* have been reported following its initial record in Singapore, and the majority were sighted around the islands in the Singapore Strait (Figueroa et al., 2023). The featured sighting seems unusual because of its proximity to Singapore Island.

Literature cited:

Davison GWH, Gan JWM, Huang D, Hwang WS, Lum SKY & Yeo DCJ (eds.) (2024) The Singapore Red Data Book: Red Lists of Singapore Biodiversity. 3rd ed. National Parks Board, Singapore, p. 672.

Figueroa A, Low MEY & Lim KKP (2023) Singapore’s herpetofauna: updated and annotated checklist, history, conservation, and distribution. Zootaxa, 5287(1): 68. <https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5287.1.1>

Seminoff JA (2023) *Chelonia mydas* (amended version of 2004 assessment). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 2023: p. e.T4615A247654386. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2023-1.RLTS.T4615A247654386.en>