

Biodiversity Record: New record of the pyram snail, *Morrisonietta acicula*, in Singapore

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Subject: Needle-like pyram snail; *Morrisonietta acicula* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Pyramidellidae).

Subject identified by: Chan Sow-Yan and Lau Wing Lup.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island along Johor Strait, Pasir Ris Park, Sungei Api Api; 13 December 2024; around 1630 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine shore. Intertidal mudflat near mangrove-fringed river embankments, at low tide.

Observers: Lau Wing Lup and Chan Sow-Yan.

Observation: One freshly dead specimen of 2.6 mm shell height (Figs. 1–3) was found between the articulated valve of a venus shell. The shell has 6 whorls that increase regularly in size. The microsculpture consists of very fine spiral lines and slightly thicker growth lines. The spiral lines on the lower half of the last whorl are weaker than those on the upper half. The body whorl is about half the length of the entire shell, the aperture about one quarter of it.

Remarks: Although based solely on a shell, this appears to be the first record of *Morrisonietta acicula* in Singapore, as well as the first record of the species beyond Thailand (see e.g., Tan & Woo, 2010; Chan & Lau, 2024).

In Thailand, *Morrisonietta acicula* is known from the districts of Glaeng (Rayong); Ban Praya Samut (Samut Prakan) and Bandon (Surat Thani). The type locality is within a trench at Ban Don Makok, east of Rayong. Among its congeners, the very slender shell shape is diagnostic of this species (Brandt, 1968, 1974).

A congener, *Morrisonietta bandonensis*, was earlier recorded from Singapore, also at Pasir Ris (Chan & Lau, 2024). Based on Brandt (1974) and Chan & Lau (2024), it can be differentiated from *Morrisonietta acicula* as follows:

Species	<i>Morrisonietta acicula</i>	<i>Morrisonietta bandonensis</i>
Shell opacity	Opaque.	Translucent.
Number of whorls	About 6.	6–7.
Last whorl	About 50% of total height.	Less than 50% of total height.
Shell height	Up to 5.3 mm.	Up to 3.6 mm.
Shell aperture	¼ of shell height.	⅓ of shell height.
Shell diameter	Up to 1.7 mm.	Up to 1 mm.
Microsculpture	Very fine spiral lines crossed by slightly thicker growth lines.	Delicate spiral lines crossed by slightly thicker growth lines.
Shell shape	Very slender.	Turreted, terebrella-shaped.
Shell peristome	Curved.	Straight to slightly curved.
Soft tissue	Sand-coloured, dusted with grey and black dots.	Outer parts with brownish-red spots, inner parts brownish-red to almost black; few large dark patches.

Literature cited:

Chan S-Y & Lau WL (2024) Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the pyram snail, *Morrisonietta bandonensis*. Nature in Singapore, 17: e2024008. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2024-0008

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Tan SK & Woo HPM (2010) A Preliminary Checklist of the Molluscs of Singapore. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore, 78 pp. Uploaded 2 June 2010. https://lkcnhm.nus.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2024/02/preliminary_checklist_molluscs_singapore.pdf (Accessed 26 June 2025).



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Figs. 1–3. Cleaned shell of *Morrisonietta acicula* from Pasir Ris. Fig. 1. Dorsolateral view. Fig. 2. Aperture view. Fig. 3. Abapertural view. Space between black bars = 1mm (Photographs by: Lau Wing Lup).