

## Biodiversity Record: Chinese stripe-necked turtle at Rifle Range Nature Park

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**Subject:** Chinese stripe-necked turtle, *Mauremys sinensis* (Reptilia: Testudines: Geoemydidae).

**Subject identified by:** Luqmanul Hakim Bin Othman & Chen Xuanhe

**Location and dates:** Singapore Island, Rifle Range Nature Park, southwestern portion of Lasia stream; 15 February 2025; around 0943 hrs.

**Habitat:** Freshwater stream with sandy substrate flowing through native-dominated secondary forest.

**Observers:** Luqmanul Hakim Bin Othman, Capucine Pierrefeu, and Intan Krishanty Wiryadi.

**Observation:** An example of about 20 cm carapace length was observed basking on a mossy rock along the bank of the stream (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of the subject, in-situ (Photograph by: Luqmanul Hakim Bin Othman).

**Remarks:** *Mauremys sinensis*, a native of southern China, Hainan, Taiwan, and Vietnam, is an introduced species in Singapore (Figueroa et al., 2023) and was last recorded there at Lower Seletar (Luqmanul & Chen, 2024). Although farmed in China and Taiwan, the species is regarded as ‘critically endangered’ in its native range due to anthropogenic factors such as draining of water bodies for development and overharvesting (Li et al., 2021). It is known to hybridise with other species of Geomydidae (Xia et al., 2011; Lee et al., 2019), but this has not been recorded in Singapore.

### Literature cited:

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Lee Y, Lin J-W, Tseng S-P, Chen T-S & Lin S-M (2019) Human disturbance as a possible cause of genetic introgression from exotic into native *Mauremys* turtles. *Animal Conservation*, 22: 10.1111/acv.12494.

Li P, Rao D-Q & Wang L (2021) *Mauremys sinensis*. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 2021: e.T15026A547319. DOI: 10.2305/IUCN.UK.2021-2.RLTS.T15026A547319.en (Accessed 6 July 2025)

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Xia X, Wang L, Nie L, Huang Z, Jiang Y, Jing W, & Liu L (2011) Interspecific hybridization between *Mauremys reevesii* and *Mauremys sinensis*: evidence from morphology and DNA sequence data. *African Journal of Biotechnology*, 10(35): 6716–6724.