

Biodiversity Record: Rediscovery of the fluted giant clam, *Tridacna squamosa*, at Labrador Nature Reserve

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Subject: Fluted giant clam, *Tridacna squamosa* (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Cardiidae: Tridacninae).

Subject identified by: Neo Mei Lin.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Labrador Nature Reserve; 10 October 2025; around 1938 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Intertidal coral reef and rocky shore with sandy patches.

Observer: Loh Kok Sheng.

Observation: A single live example (Fig. 1) of approximately 35 cm shell length was found submerged in shallow water on a sandy patch near the reef edge.

Remarks: Giant clams are among the world's largest bivalves and inhabit the coral reefs of the Indo-Pacific region (Neo, 2023). Of the five species recorded from Singapore, only two remain extant: *Tridacna crocea* (burrowing giant clam) and *Tridacna squamosa* (fluted giant clam) (Neo & Todd, 2013). A long-term dataset between 2011 and 2020, consisting of citizen science data, revealed that both species occur in very low densities across the intertidal reef areas (Neo, 2024). In Singapore, *Tridacna crocea* is regarded as 'endangered', and *Tridacna squamosa* as 'critically endangered' (Tan & Tan, 2024).

Lim et al. (1994) wrote that *Tridacna crocea* used to be common at Labrador Beach, but only found in the deeper waters, while *Tridacna squamosa* was once found in the waters near the sargassum beds. However, no giant clams were observed at Labrador during the last surveys in 2009/2010 (Neo & Todd, 2012) and citizen science surveys from 2011 to 2020 (Neo, 2024). The rediscovery of this giant clam in Labrador suggests that the last mainland rocky shore habitat remains a significant refuge for these species.

Literature cited:

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Fig. 1. In-situ top view of the subject at Labrador Nature Reserve. (Photograph by: Loh Kok Sheng).