

Biodiversity Record: New record of the chiton, *Ischnochiton comptus*, in Singapore

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Subject: Fancy chiton, *Ischnochiton comptus* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Ischnochitonidae).

Subject identified by: Lau Wing Lup.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island / Johor Strait, Punggol Beach Park; 9 November 2025; around 1745 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine intertidal shore, at low tide.

Observer: Lau Wing Lup.

Observation: An orange-coloured example of about 9.5 mm (Figs. 1–3) was found among barnacles under a rock in shallow water.

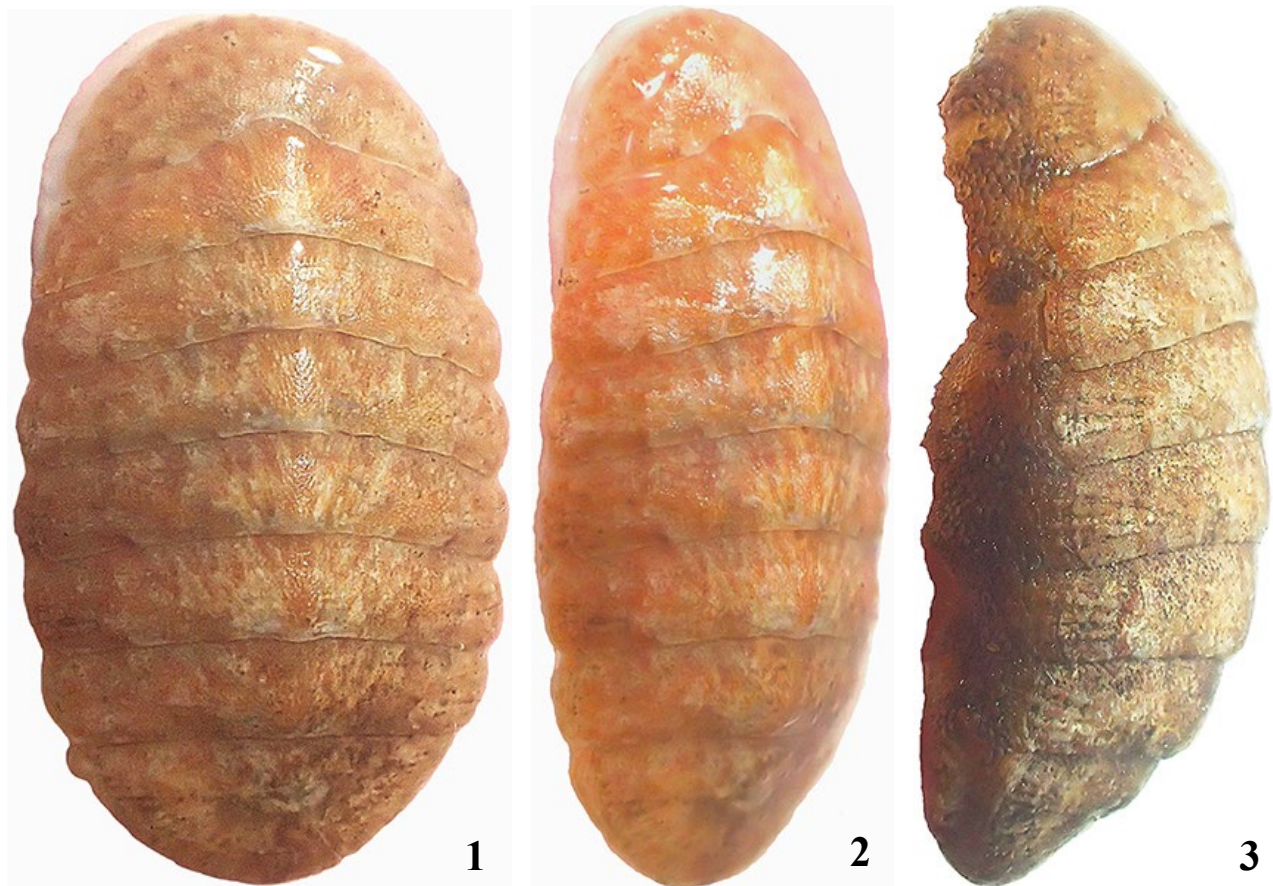


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the *Ischnochiton comptus* from Punggol Beach Park. Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of the subject. Fig. 3. Lateral view of the subject. Note that the anterior end of the animal points upwards. (Photographs by: Lau Wing Lup).

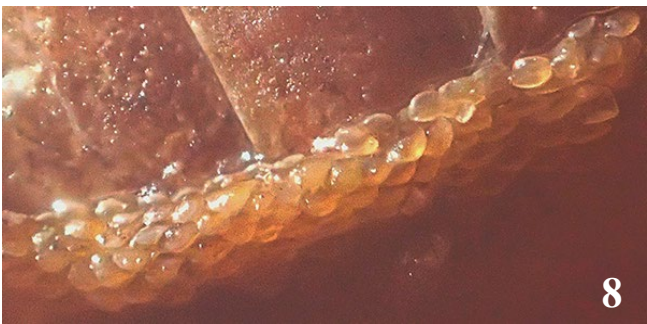
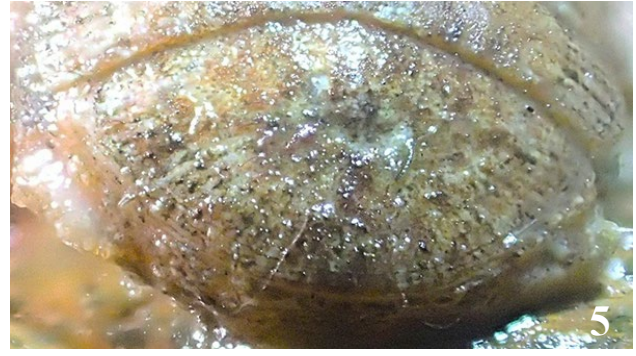
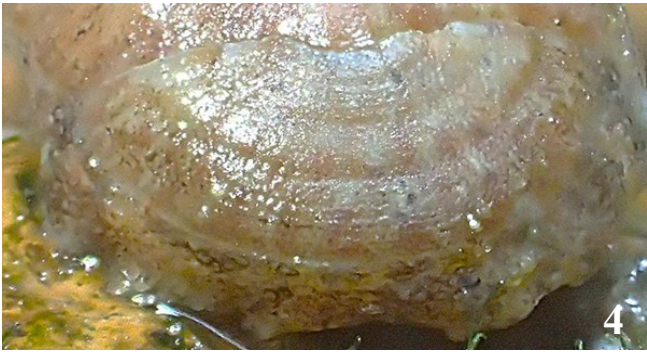


Fig. 4. Dorso-lateral view of the head valve.

Fig. 5. Dorso-lateral view of the tail valve.

Fig. 6. Lateral view of the tail valve.

Fig. 7. Ventral view of the tail valve.

Fig. 8. Close-up view of the girdle.

(Photographs by: Lau Wing Lup)

Remarks: *Ischnochiton* chitons are characterised by their imbricate girdle scales that are consistent in size, rounded, sculpted with striae, or occasionally smooth. Of the approximately 110 species known worldwide (MolluscaBase, 2025), only one confamilial species, *Lepidozona luzonica* has been recorded in Singapore (Tan & Woo, 2010). *Ischnochiton comptus* is herein included as a new record for the country.

The featured subject matches the illustrations and diagnoses of *Ischnochiton comptus* (Gould, 1859, as *Chiton (Leptochiton) comptus*) provided by Owada (2016), Sirenko & Zhang (2019), and Park et al. (2024). *Ischnochiton comptus* is oval, short and wide in outline. Valves II–VII appear broadly rectangular. The central area of the intermediate valves is covered with low egg-shaped and weak microgranules that form a quincunx or zigzag pattern. The lateral area of the intermediate valves is slightly raised with 4–5 indistinct radial ribs that become gradually fainter towards the apex (Fig. 3). The intermediate valves are hardly beaked, dorso-ventrally subcarinated with side slope slightly convex. The anterior margin is nearly straight to slightly convex, except for the second valve. The girdle (perinotum) is smooth and parallelly aligned to the outer margin, imbricated with large, oval, narrow and elongated grooved scales (Fig. 8). The girdle is cream with dark brown transverse bands (Fig. 3). The head valve is semicircular, has about 50 radial riblets that gradually turns fainter towards the apex; with somewhat distinct growth lines; round anterior margin and widely V-shaped posterior margin (Fig. 4). The tail valve is almost semicircular, as wide as the head valve with a convex anterior margin. The mucro is subcentral and not protruding (Fig. 5). The postmucronal area is formed similarly to the head valve, with more prominent radial ribs. The postmucronal slope is straight (Fig. 6). The articulamentum is greyish-white and generally red violet in the centre. The apophyses is short, rounded-angled and subtrapezoid in shape (Fig. 7). The tegmentum colour can vary from light green, orange, brown to greyish green with partially white, cream, pink blotches or dots of various sizes (Owada, 2016). The species is known to reach 19.4 mm in length (Park et al., 2024).

Ischnochiton comptus was described based on specimens from Amami Oshima, Kagoshima Prefecture in Japan (Gould, 1859, as *Chiton (Leptochiton) comptus*). As it is widely distributed in the western Pacific from Korea to Australia, inhabiting intertidal zones and down to 6 m depth (Sirenko et al., 2019; Park et al., 2024), its presence in Singapore is to be expected.

Literature cited:

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