

Biodiversity Record: A blue-coloured freshwater shrimp, *Macrobrachium malayanum*

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Subject: Malayan river shrimp, *Macrobrachium malayanum* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Palaemonidae).

Subject identified by: Peter K. L. Ng.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, north-eastern edge; 13 November 2025; around 2100 hrs.

Habitat: Natural freshwater stream under forest canopy, with sandy-clay banks, leaf litter, and clear flowing water.

Observers: Chen Xuanhe and Lim Junyi.

Observation: One example of approximately 3 cm body length was spotted moving among leaf litter in a shallow part of the stream (Figs. 1 & 2). It has an unusual dark blue colouration compared to other shrimps present at the site, which were generally greyish to brown.



Figs. 1 & 2. In-situ dorso-lateral views of the blue-coloured *Macrobrachium malayanum*. (Photographs by: Chen Xuanhe)

Remarks: This appears to be the first record of a blue-coloured *Macrobrachium malayanum* in Singapore. The cause of its unusual colour is unknown, but could be due to a rare genetic mutation that has been seen in other crustaceans (see Malmquist, 2018), including the freshwater crab, *Parathelphusa reticulata* (see Chen, 2024). In Singapore, *Macrobrachium malayanum* is common in the streams of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (Ng, 1990) and is listed as a species of 'Least Concern' (Cai et al., 2024).

Literature cited:

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