

Biodiversity Record: The tree snail, *Amphidromus perversus*, in Singapore

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Subjects: Perverse tree snail, *Amphidromus perversus* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Camaenidae).

Subjects identified by: Leong Si Wei.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Pulau Seringat; 20 May 2019, around 0323 hrs.

Habitat: Coastal secondary forest on reclaimed land.

Observers: Leong Si Wei and Royston Koh.

Observation: One individual of around 4 cm shell height was found on the trunk of a tree (Fig. 1). A few more examples were spotted on branches up in the tree canopy out of the observers' reach.

Remarks: Around eight species and subspecies of *Amphidromus* have hitherto been recorded from Singapore (e.g., Lok & Tan, 2008, and references therein cited; Tan et al., 2011; Tan & Chan, 2012; Chan, 2024). However, many older historical records are dubious and require corroboration. These include several records of *Amphidromus perversus* sensu lato (e.g., Tenison-Woods, 1888, as *Bulimus melanomma*; Fulton, 1896, as *Amphidromus perversus* var. *melanomma*; Pilsbry, 1900, as *Amphidromus aureus* var. *melanomma*), which likely prompted the suggestion that the species was probably introduced to Singapore in Laidlaw & Solem (1961) who considered its natural distribution range to be Sumatra and Java to Borneo, Celebes and Bali. The opportunity is herein taken to clarify that the *Amphidromus perversus* figured in Chan (1996) were not from Singapore. Therefore, this note appears to be the first verified record of this species from Singapore.



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of the subject in-situ. (Photograph by: Leong Si Wei)

This population of *Amphidromus perversus* is believed to be introduced because of their apparent restriction to a patch of secondary vegetation on a manmade island reclaimed upon submerged reefs in the 1990s. At present, the snails seem to be restricted to Pulau Seringat. A few attempts to find conspecifics at the connected Pulau Lazarus were unsuccessful. There are, however, two more recent unpublished records, albeit associated with plant nursery settings, which perhaps indicate undetected propagule pressure. One is a specimen accessioned as ZRC.MOL.26732 in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore, obtained at Sentosa Island in November 2022. The other was an individual observed at the Sungei Tengah area in February 2023 (Chan Sow-Yan, pers. obs.). This species may eventually become more widespread or established in other locations.

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