

Biodiversity Record: A new Singapore record of the cerithiopsid snail, *Cerithiopsis pulvis*

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Subject: Cerithiopsid snail, *Cerithiopsis pulvis* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Cerithiopsidae).

Subject identified by: Lau Wing Lup.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island / Johor Strait, Punggol Beach Park; 29 January 2026; around 1314 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine shore. Intertidal zone under rocks at low tide.

Observer: Lau Wing Lup.

Observation: One specimen, about 2.2 mm in shell height, was found under rock grazing on a yellow sponge (Fig. 1). Closer examination of the shell (Fig. 2) reveals the following features: shell pupiform, tapering towards apex, with constricted base; protoconch prominent, whitish, fragile, almost cylindrical, with 3.5 convexly smooth whorls and apex rounded; teleoconch consists of 6 whorls, with distinct axial ribs, each whorl with 3 unequal spiral cords; ribs and cords cross one another at right angles, with small rounded bead at each intersection; beads wide apart with 16-17 on each spiral cord of the penultimate whorl; on last whorl, a 4th spiral cord, weakened and finely beaded emerges from suture, and a 5th smooth cord on base; beads of uppermost cord nearest to suture reddish brown, beads of two other cords pale brown; aperture semi-ovate; soft tissue greyish white (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. The subject in life, in-situ, crawling on yellow sponge under a rock during low tide. Note its intact protoconch (P) and greyish white foot (F). Fig. 2. Abapertural (left), apertural (middle) and lateral (right) views of the *Cerithiopsis pulvis* shell with its fragile protoconch broken (Photographs by Lau Wing Lup).

Remarks: *Cerithiopsis pulvis* is one of the most easily recognised cerithiopsids due to its unique colour pattern. The species is herein documented as a new record for Singapore (see Tan & Woo, 2010; Sanpanich & Tan, 2016; Chan & Lau, 2020, 2022, 2025; Tan & Low, 2022). The species was described by Issel (1869, as *Cerithium* (*Cerithiopsis*?) *pulvis*) based on material from the shallow waters of the Suez Canal, in north-eastern Egypt. *Cerithiopsis pulvis* is considered rare. It has been found off Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean (Jay & Drivas, 2002). It is regarded as a non-indigenous

species in the Mediterranean, including Greece (Crocetta et al., 2017) and the Syrian coast (Ammar, 2018). Adult shells with intact protoconchs attain a height of up to 3 mm (Bouchet & Danrigal, 1982).

The congener *Cerithiopsis tenthrenoisi*, recorded from Singapore by Chan & Lau (2025), seems to be more common and lives sympatrically with *Cerithiopsis pulvis* at Punggol Beach Park (personal observations). The table below (based on Jay & Drivas, 2002 and Prkić & Buzzurro, 2007) lists key morphological features that can be used to tell the two species apart.

Species	<i>Cerithiopsis pulvis</i>	<i>Cerithiopsis tenthrenoisi</i>
Protoconch colour	Whitish	Light brown
Protoconch whorls	3.5	4.5
Protoconch shape	Almost cylindrical	Stylet-shaped
Teleoconch colour	Contrasting	Muted

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