

Biodiversity Record: Sighting of the anemone, *Macrodactyla aspera*, at Lazarus Island

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Subject: Rough anemone, *Macrodactyla aspera* (Cnidaria: Hexacorallia: Actiniaria: Actiniidae).

Subject identified by: Riddian Jia Jun Chua and Nicholas Wei Liang Yap.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Lazarus Island, Eagle's Bay; 27 May 2025; around 0545 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Seagrass meadow with silty substrate. At intertidal area during morning low tide of about 0.2 m.

Observers: Riddian Jia Jun Chua, Abel Meng Wei Yeo and Bee Yan Lee.

Observation: One individual was observed extending from the sandy substratum at the edge of a small patch of seagrass. The majority of the animal's tentacles were fully extended flat against the substrate (Fig. 1). Tentacles were arranged in four cycles. Brownish-red spots were present along the length of the translucent tentacles, with most clustering closer to the oral disc. Nematocysts batteries were observed throughout the length of the tentacles (Fig. 2). The body column was buried in the substrate, with marginal and adhesive verrucae visible. Grains of sand were attached to the verrucae. No other conspecifics were observed in the vicinity.

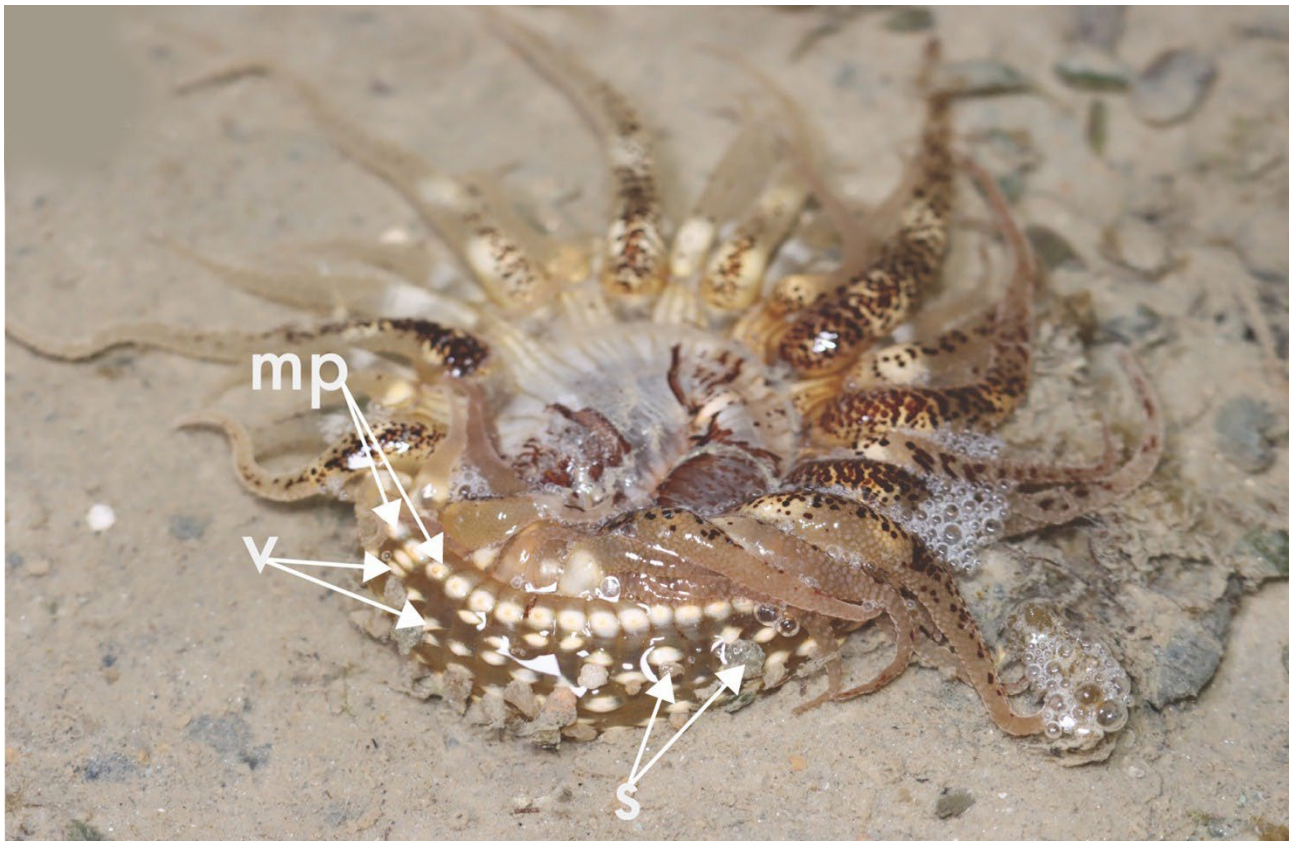


Fig. 1. In-situ dorso-lateral view of live *Macrodactyla aspera* with marginal projections (mp) and adhesive verrucae exposed. Grains of sand and silt (s) are attached to the sticky verrucae (v) (Photograph by: Abel Meng Wei Yeo).



Fig. 2. In-situ top view of *Macrodictyla aspera* with marginal projections (mp) exposed, and nematocyte batteries visible on the tentacles, giving these a rough texture (Photograph by: Riddian Jia Jun Chua).

Remarks: This appears to be the first record of *Macrodictyla aspera* (Haddon & Shackleton, 1893) at Lazarus Island. This species of anemone has been observed on both northern and southern shores of Singapore, although predominantly at the former where it has been found along the beaches of Changi, as well as Pulau Sekudu. In the Singapore Strait, it has been photographed at East Coast Park and Cyrene Reef (Yap et al., 2023; Tan, 2023). *Macrodictyla aspera* is listed as being ‘Data Deficient’ in the third edition of the Singapore Red Data Book (Yap et al., 2024).

Acknowledgments: This sighting was recorded as part of a collaborative research project between Resorts World at Sentosa and the National University of Singapore.

Literature cited:

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