

## Biodiversity Record: New record of the pyram shell, *Turbonilla langae*, in Singapore

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**Subject:** Pyram shell, *Turbonilla langae* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Pyramidellidae).

**Subject identified by:** Lau Wing Lup and Chan Sow-Yan.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island / Johor Strait, Punggol Beach Park; 29 January 2026; around 1306 hrs.

**Habitat:** Estuarine intertidal shore.

**Observers:** Lau Wing Lup and Chan Sow-Yan.

**Observation:** A dead individual of about 3.7 mm shell height was found under rock beside a rock-slime ascidian during low tide (Fig.1).

This shell exhibits the following characteristics (Fig. 2): slender and elongated, tapering gradually; milky-white or opaque white with a slightly waxy or dull luster; surface with prominent, strong and rounded axial ribs that run vertically down the whorls with a slight slant; uniform ribs separated by deep, concave intercostal spaces of roughly equal width; protoconch and parts of spire missing; around nine moderately convex and well-defined whorls present, separated by deeply impressed sutures; base appears smooth and rounded; aperture somewhat squarish or subquadrate, with simple thin outer lip; columella exceptionally thick, devoid of folds or tooth; about 18 ribs present on last whorl.



Fig. 1. In-situ view of subject (indicated by arrow) next to a rock-slime ascidian. Fig. 2. Lateral (left), apertural (centre) and abapertural (right) views of the *Turbonilla langae* shell (Photographs by: Lau Wing Lup).

**Remarks:** The genus *Turbonilla* is one of the most speciose and taxonomically complex groups of gastropods. All the species within this genus have relatively elongated shells having planorbid or helicoid protoconchs; with axial ribs on the whorls and, rarely intercostal spiral striations; and with no tooth or fold on the columella (Öztürk & Bakır, 2013).

*Turbonilla langae* is herein documented as a new record for Singapore (see Tan & Woo, 2010; Sanpanich & Tan, 2016; Tan & Low, 2022; Chan & Lau, 2021a, 2021b, 2022, 2024). The featured specimen matches the original description

and illustrations of the species by Saurin (1959). The type locality is Nhatrang in Vietnam (Saurin, 1959). It is a poorly known species that seems to be elusive and was apparently not reported for 66 years since its description. The present record is also an extension of its known range beyond Vietnam.

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