

Biodiversity Record: Mucus-thread descending behaviour in the semi-slug, *Parmarion martensi*

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Subject: Yellow-shelled semi-slug, *Parmarion martensi* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Stylommatophora: Ariophantidae).

Subject identified by: Manuel Rigger.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Thomson Nature Park, Macaque Trail (1°22'48.2"N 103°49'28.1"E); 22 February 2026; 1207–1210 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest, near a freshwater stream.

Observer: Manuel Rigger.

Observation: An example of about 4 cm was observed suspended in mid-air (Fig. 1) approximately one metre below its launch point on a tree. It was actively and slowly descending by discharging a continuous mucus thread from its posterior end. Observation was then briefly interrupted. Shortly after, the semi-slug had completed its descent, having apparently dropped the remaining distance of about 1.5 metres to the forest floor. It was subsequently located on the ground, appearing unharmed and actively continuing its movement (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. In-situ lateral view of subject suspending in mid-air while descending with a mucus thread attached to its rear end. Fig. 2. Dorsal view of the subject on the forest floor after completing its descent. (Photographs by: Manuel Rigger).

Video recordings and additional photographs are available on Zenodo (10.5281/zenodo.18731133).

Remarks: Slugs and semi-slugs throughout the world are known to use their mucus-thread to descend trees (Shikov, 2014). Apparently seldom observed in Singapore, this behaviour of *Parmarion martensi* has previously been photographed at Dairy Farm Nature Park (Singapore Geographic, 2021). Another semi-slug, *Helicarion perfragilis*, has also been observed descending with its mucus thread at the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve (Lim, 2013).

Literature cited:

Lim KKP (2013) Slime thread of the arboreal snail *Helicarion perfragilis*. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2013: 24.
Shikov EV (2014) Slugs descending on mucus threads. Folia Malacologica, 22: 83–86.
Singapore Geographic (2021) Yellow-shelled semi-slug – *Parmarion martensi*. Singapore Geographic. <https://www.singaporegeographic.com/wild-animals/yellow-shelled-semi-slug-parmarion-martensi> (Accessed 22 February 2026)