

***Daldorfia horrida* rediscovered in Singapore after a century**

Subject: *Daldorfia horrida* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Parthenopidae).

Subject identified by: Tan Swee Hee.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, off Kusu Island (Station SD150 of the Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey); 1 June 2013; 1949 hrs.

Habitat: Marine environment with large boulders and silty substrate, at a depth of 15-18 m.

Observers: Lin Chia-Wei & Tan Heok Hui.

Observation: A mature female example measuring 170.0 × 75.6 mm (carapace width × length) was collected during the second phase of the Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey (Southern Expedition) during a night dive. It was found walking on rocks. This specimen will be deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the National University of Singapore.

Remarks: This species of crab was first recorded from Singapore by Hanitsch (1912: 8) who noted that in the year 1911, 'Dr. G. Brooke presented a remarkably fine specimen of the Crab *Parthenope horrida*, L., from St. John's Island'. A dried specimen in the collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research without data may represent the specimen collected by Brooke, but this cannot be confirmed.

Since then, *Daldorfia horrida* has been listed as being found in Singapore by Dai et al. (1986: 157), Dai & Yang (1991: 174), Wee & Ng (1994: 83), Murphy et al. (1994: 325), and Yeo et al. (2008: 260). The last two publications are part of the Singapore Red Data Book, which documents the threatened flora and fauna of Singapore. In the first edition of this book, *Daldorfia horrida* is listed as 'rare' (Murphy et al., 1994: 325), while in the second edition (Yeo et al., 2008: 260), this species is regarded as 'nationally extinct'. All these lists did not figure any material from Singapore or provide additional information.

The present rediscovery of *Daldorfia horrida* comes a century after the first record by Hanitsch (1912), and in the vicinity of Saint John's Island, where the first recorded specimen from Singapore was collected.

References:

- Dai A. Y. & S. L. Yang, 1991. *Crabs of the China Seas*. China Ocean Press, Beijing & Springer-Verlag, Berlin Heidelberg. 21 + 682 pp., 74 pls.
- Dai A. Y., S. L. Yang, Y. Z. Song & G. X. Chen, 1986. [*Crabs of the China Seas*]. China Ocean Press, Beijing. 17+ 642 pp., 74 pls. [In Chinese]
- Hanitsch, R., 1912. *Annual Report on the Raffles Museum and Library for the Year 1911*. Published by Authority, Singapore. 8 pp.
- Murphy, D. H., P. K. L. Ng, S. Neo & J. Koh, 1994. Arthropods and lower chordates. In: Ng, P. K. L. & Y. C. Wee (eds.), *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants and Animals of Singapore*. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 105–183, 318–326.
- Wee Y. C. & P. K. L. Ng (eds.), 1994. *A First Look at Biodiversity in Singapore*. National Council on the Environment, Singapore. 163 pp.
- Yeo, D. C. J., S. H. Tan & P. K. L. Ng, 2008. Horseshoe crabs (Phylum Arthropoda: Subphylum Chelicerata: Class Merostomata). Decapod crustaceans (Phylum Arthropoda: Subphylum Crustacea: Order Decapoda). In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.), *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore. Second Edition*. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 110–128, 259–262.



Dorsal view of *Daldorfia horrida*. Photograph by Rene Ong

Contributors: **Tan** Swee Hee & Martyn E. Y. **Low**

Contact address: dbstansh@nus.edu.sg (Tan)