

First record of *Nassarius biendongensis* from Singapore

Subjects: *Nassarius biendongensis* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Nassariidae).

Subjects identified by: Tan Siong Kiat.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Sarimbun area; 20 October 1999; afternoon.

Habitat: Mangrove forest, around the mid-intertidal zone during low tide. On silty mud substrate in small, shallow tidal pools amongst mangrove tree roots.

Observer: Tan Siong Kiat.

Observation: During a visit to the mangrove forest more than a decade ago, some small unidentified nassariids were noticed to be crawling in tidal pools at low tide. Some examples were collected for study and voucher specimens (see picture attached) were subsequently deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore, and catalogued as ZRC.MOL.5717.

Remarks: This species was only recently described from material collected from around the South China Sea, with the distributional range having its limits (in the north, south, east and west, respectively) demarcated by China (Quanzhou, Fujian), the island of Bangka (Indonesia), the Gulf of Thailand, and Santubong (Sarawak, Borneo) (see Kool, 2003; Zhang, 2013). The record reported upon herein extends the distribution of this species to Singapore, which is almost exactly due west of Santubong on the western edge of the South China Sea. It appears to be rather uncommon or rare in Singapore, and this species has not been recorded from any other localities. Additional studies will be required to ascertain its local distribution and abundance.

Nassarius biendongensis is herein reported as a new record for Singapore. Although the shells figured were collected more than a decade ago, the specimens have remained unidentified until relevant references became available recently. A similar-looking species, *Nassarius sinusigerus*, has been recorded from Singapore (Cernohorsky, 1984; Tan & Woo, 2010), but whether that record was based on misidentification of this species remains unconfirmed. *Nassarius sinusigerus* differs from *Nassarius biendongensis* by its squatter shape, a narrower aperture, presence of shoulder knobs incised by subsutural groove, and a rather flat protoconch.

References:

- Cernohorsky, W. O., 1984. *Systematics of the Family Nassariidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda)*. Auckland Institute and Museum, Auckland. 356 pp.
- Kool, H. H., 2003. *Nassarius biendongensis* spec. nov. from the South China Sea (Gastropoda, Prosobranchia, Nassariidae). *Basteria*. 67 (1–3): 43–46.
- Tan S. K. & H. P. M. Woo, 2010. *A Preliminary Checklist of the Molluscs of Singapore*. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 78 pp.
- Zhang, S.-P., 2013. Two new records of *Nassarius* (Gastropoda, Nassariidae) from China Sea. *Oceanologia et Limnologia Sinica*. 44 (3): 814–816.

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Dried shells of two examples of *Nassarius biendongensis* (ZRC.MOL.5717) from Sarimbun, with apertural views on the left and dorsal views on the right: A, SH 11.5 × SW 6.6 mm; B, SH 12.2 × SW 7.1 mm. Photograph by Tan Siong Kiat