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Communication

First record of *Cerithium scobiniforme* Houbrick, 1992 (Gastropoda: Cerithiidae) in Singapore

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Abstract

The first record of *Cerithium scobiniforme* Houbrick, 1992, in Singapore is reported based on specimens from Pulau Tekukor and Semakau Landfill. The specimens are herein figured, with diagnosis and notes of interest.

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Introduction

While looking through some unsorted shells from a 1988 collection from Pulau Tekukor, Singapore, recently, the second author (H.E. Ng) noticed a small cerithiid species with a white prickly shell that appears different from the usual common species seen in Singapore. Coincidentally, a second specimen was collected by the first author (S.K. Tan) during a recent field trip to Semakau Landfill. Based on Houbrick's (1992) monograph, the specimens were subsequently determined to be *Cerithium scobiniforme* Houbrick, 1992, a species that has not been recorded from Singapore. The finds are herein reported.

The specimens examined for this study have been deposited as vouchers in the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (LKCNHM) in the National University of Singapore. Measurements are given in the form of shell height (SH) × shell width (SW). Shell height is defined as the distance from the apex to the lowest part of the basal side of the peristome, and shell width is the distance between the edges of the widest part of the body whorl perpendicular to the coiling axis. All measurements are in millimetres (mm).

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Cerithium scobiniforme Houbrick, 1992

(Fig. 1)

Material examined. Singapore: 1 ex. (SH 18.0 mm × SW 7.2 mm) (ZRC.MOL.5775), Pulau Tekukor, coll. Jelani *et al*., 18 August 1988; 1 ex. (SH 20.9 mm × SW 7.4 mm) (ZRC.MOL.5774), Semakau Landfill, empty shell with drill hole, amongst coral rubble and muddy sand, coll. S.K. Tan, 14 August 2014.

Diagnosis. The following diagnosis is based on Houbrick (1992). Shell thin but solid, relatively small (reaching SH 27.6 mm × SW 10.4 mm), fusiform, slender, comprising 10–14 straight-sided to weakly inflated whorls; teleoconch whorls with coarse cancellate sculpture of 3–4 spiral cords crossed by 13–19 axial ribs; crossover points spinose and interspaces with many fine spiral lines; suture distinct. Body whorl elongate, sculptured with 5 main spinose spiral cords; base of body whorl sharply excavated, sculptured with 1 spinose or beaded spiral cord. Aperture nearly ¼ of the shell height; anterior siphonal canal constricted, relatively long, and strongly reflected dorsally; columella concave, thick, with strong columellar lip; posterior canal distinct, bordered with parietal tooth; outer lip strongly crenulate. Shell colour white with occasional small, black, spiral spots and bluish-black anterior canal; outer lip of aperture usually bluish-black.

Remarks. *Cerithium scobiniforme* does not display much intraspecific variation. Specimens are nearly always all white with a bluish-black anterior canal and outer lip. However, the intensity of the dark bluish-black colouration may be variable, and some shells have

Fig. 1. *Cerithium scobiniforme* Houbrick, 1992, from Singapore: A, Pulau Tekukor (ZRC.MOL.5775; SH 18.0 mm × SW 7.2 mm); B, Semakau Landfill (ZRC.MOL.5774; SH 20.9 mm × SW 7.4 mm).

random dark spots or are nearly black. Variations are illustrated and elaborated upon by Houbrick (1992).

Discussion

The slender and small shell of *C. scobiniforme* resembles *C. salebrosum* G. B. Sowerby II, 1855, which has a sympatric occurrence throughout much of its range (see Houbrick, 1992). Thus far *C. salebrosum* has not been recorded from Singapore (Tan & Woo, 2010), but it is possible that its presence may be revealed with further field surveys, or examination of material in existing collections.

Cerithium scobiniforme also somewhat resembles a miniature *Rhinoclavis aspera* (Linnaeus, 1758), because of the similarly white shell and prominent anterior

canal. Confusion with that species is however unlikely because of the great difference in their shell sizes in the mature stage.

Some twenty species of the family Cerithiidae Fleming, 1822, are presently known from the waters of Singapore (see Tan & Woo, 2010, and references cited therein). Nevertheless a recent review of the family in the local context (e.g., Tan & Low, 2013; Ng *et al*., 2014) is wanting, and a few of the literature records still require verification as there are neither recent records nor voucher material present in the collections that are accessible to us.

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