**MEDIA FACTSHEET A**

**Factsheet on newly discovered and rediscovered species**

Over the past five years, NParks staff, research partners and naturalists have discovered and rediscovered over 500 species in Singapore. This list consists of species that are potentially new to science, species that were recorded in Singapore for the first time, and species previously thought to be extinct. They comprise marine and terrestrial species as well as plants.

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| Marine species | • About 100 species possibly new to science<br>• More than 300 new records to Singapore<br>• About 10 rediscoveries |
| Terrestrial fauna | • 37 species new to science<br>• 37 new records to Singapore<br>• 3 rediscoveries |
| Terrestrial flora | • 7 species new to science<br>• 5 new records to Singapore<br>• 10 rediscoveries |

Some notable species are highlighted below.

| Species | Description | Category |
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| *Ceratina sayang*<br>  <br>Photo credit: Chui Shao Xiong | A species of small carpenter bee of the genus *Ceratina* was found to be potentially new to science. It was found at the edge of a secondary rainforest at Dairy Farm Nature Park in 2014, where NParks researchers were studying a blooming clump of Tiger Orchids (*Grammatophyllum speciosum*) that had been reintroduced into the nature park.<br><br>It has tentatively been given the affectionate manuscript name *'sayang'* in reference to the heart-shaped marking on its thorax. Researchers from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and NParks are currently preparing to publish their paper on this discovery.<br><br>The discovery of this bee species, along with other new national records for Singapore, suggest that many forest-associated bee pollinators may be playing a hidden crucial role in Singapore's forest habitats. | Potential new species to science |




*For more information, please contact Clarissa Sih (9636 4385)*
*Information accurate as at 27 May 2017*

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| *Acriopsis ridleyi*<br>  <br>Photo credit: Dr Yam Tim Wing, National Parks Board | The *Acriopsis ridleyi* was originally discovered at Bukit Mandai in 1889, and that was the only time the orchid was collected in Singapore. It would be the only time the orchid was collected or sighted.<br><br>The orchid was rediscovered by an NParks staff in 2016 at the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. It is currently being propagated at the National Orchid Garden nursery. The seeds of the plant have also been collected for propagation. | Rediscovery |
| **Margaritaria indica*<br>  <br>Photo credit: Reuben Lim, National Parks Board | Even in its natural distribution throughout the Malay Peninsula, this species is only known from a few scattered localities such as Pulau Tioman. A single specimen was found in 2012 within the campus of the National University of Singapore (NUS), during the development and construction phase of the University Town. This specimen is a new record for Singapore.<br><br>After the identity of the tree at NUS was determined, extra care was taken during the development works to protect and conserve the tree. It has since been designated a Heritage Tree owing to its large size and botanical significance. As this species is dioecious (separate male and female plants), and this is the single known individual in Singapore so far, NParks' Pasir Panjang Nursery has only been successful in propagating this tree from cuttings. | New record to Singapore |
| Blackwater Mud Snake (*Phytolopsis punctata)* | The non-venomous Blackwater Mud Snake is an inhabitant of peat swamps and acidic waters. It is a secretive snake that is predominantly brown with a bright yellow underside. It is known to prey on other aquatic fauna, including catfish.<br><br>It was first discovered in Singapore in September 2014 by NParks staff during a | New record to Singapore |




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|  <br>Photo credit: Noel Thomas, National Parks Board | biodiversity study of Nee Soon Swamp Forest. Little is known about the snake's ecology, and it is classified on IUCN's Red List as a data deficient species. | |
| Ashy Roundleaf Bat (*Hipposideros cineraceus*)<br>  <br>Photo credit: Noel Thomas, National Parks Board | The Ashy Roundleaf Bat was first recorded on Pulau Ubin in 2014. These bats, which are primarily insectivorous, roost in abandoned buildings on the island. A defining characteristic of this species is its distinctive noseleaf, with the term "roundleaf" referring to the circular noseleaf of this species.<br><br>As part of efforts to conserve this species as well as other bats on Pulau Ubin, bat houses and bat boxes have been set up across the island to provide more roosting sites for the local bat populations. | New record to Singapore |
| Wandering Wisp (*Agriocnemis pygmaea*)<br>  <br>Photo credit: Robin Ngiam, National Parks Board | The Wandering Wisp damselfly is very cryptic and highly similar in general appearance to the more common Variable Wisp (*Agriocnemis femina*). Last recorded in 1858, it was rediscovered in 2012 by an NUS team at Pulau Semakau. More recently, it was found in an urban park by the local dragonfly watching community. This rediscovery is an example of how a wider network of nature enthusiasts is contributing to Singapore's biodiversity knowledge. | Rediscovery |
| *Berthelinia singaporensis* | While this bright green organism resembles a clam due to its hinged shells, it is actually a sea slug! It belongs to a group of snails (Sacoglossa) which feeds on algae sap by sucking them after piercing the plant's cell wall with a specialised tooth. Upon their discovery in the1880s, shelled sacoglossans were | New record to Singapore |




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|  <br>Photo credit: National Parks Board | classified as clams and it was not until examining live specimens in 1959 that scientists realised they were actually sea slugs. Their shells are thinner than that of clams.<br><br>Named after Singapore where it was first discovered in 2012, *Berthelinia singaporensis* is also the first record of the genus *Berthelinia* here. | |
| Shell Pea Crab (*Indopinnixa shellorum*)<br><br>  <br>Photo credit: Arthur Anker | *Indopinnixia shellorum* is the first species of pea crab from its genus to be found in Singapore. Crabs of this genus are very small (about the size of a pea) and are distributed only in East and Southeast Asia. It was discovered during the Singapore Strait Expedition of the Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey in 2013. | New record to Singapore |
| *Daldorfia horrida*<br><br>  <br>Photo credit: National Parks Board | Previously presumed to be nationally extinct, this species was not seen in Singapore for a century until a night dive during the Singapore Strait Expedition of the Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey in 2013. First recorded anecdotally on St John's Island in 1911, it belongs to a group of crabs – elbow crabs – which have elongated pincers that extend sideways, akin to elbows. | Rediscovery |



*Species that are included in the list of targets identified for species recovery. The full list of targets can be found in Factsheet B.


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