

## Dark-bellied Leaf Terrapin *Cyclemys enigmatica* at Pulau Langkawi, Peninsular Malaysia

Nick Baker  
[nbaker@ecologyasia.com](mailto:nbaker@ecologyasia.com)

**Observer:** Nick Baker.

**Photograph by:** Nick Baker.

**Subject identified by:** Nick Baker & Uwe Fritz.

**Location:** Pulau Langkawi, Kedah, Peninsular Malaysia.

**Habitat:** Lowland dipterocarp forest. In shallow permanent pool, which was part of an intermittent shallow stream, with sandy and gravelly substrate.

**Date and time:** 29 March 2015, early afternoon.

**Identity of subject:** Dark-bellied Leaf Terrapin, *Cyclemys enigmatica* (Reptilia: Testudines: Geoemydidae).

**Description of observation:** One example of about 20 cm carapace length (see picture below) which, upon being disturbed, quickly hid beneath a submerged, fallen tree at the edge of the pool.



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**Remarks:** The featured animal is identified as *Cyclemys enigmatica* based on the shape of its carapace and the absence of colour pattern on its head and neck. It appears to be the first record of the species from the island of Langkawi, and represents the northernmost limit of its known geographic range that includes the southern Malay Peninsula and Greater Sunda Islands, including satellite islands (Fritz et al., 2008).

**Reference:** Fritz, U., Guicking, D., Auer, M., Sommer, R.S., Wink, M. & Hundsdörfer, A.K. (2008). Diversity of the Southeast Asian leaf turtle genus *Cyclemys*: how many leaves on its tree of life?. *Zoologica Scripta*, 37, pp 367–390.