

Lost and found

In June 1819, on one of Stamford Raffles' collecting trips around Singapore, a strange goblet-shaped sponge was encountered. This Neptune's cup sponge (*Cliona patera*) became the first animal to be described and named scientifically from Singapore. Overcollecting led to it being presumed to be extinct for over a century until its rediscovery in Australia two decades ago.

Just when we thought all hope was lost for the sponge in Singapore, an amazing discovery was made by our museum associates in 2011, who found not one, but two individuals a mere 50 metres apart along the Singapore Strait!