

Conundrum of the Eurasian wild pig *Sus scrofa* status on the island of Singapore: human-wildlife and environmental conflict

Haridas, S.¹, Diong, C.H.¹, Seet, G.², Lee, N.S.L.³

¹Division of Natural Sciences and Science Education National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, cheonghoong.diong@nie.edu.sg

²Division of Mechatronics and Design, School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

³Vertta Technical Services, Singapore

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The Eurasian wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) is Singapore's largest, native terrestrial mammal. Once thought to extinction, recent records suggest that the pigs have recolonized the urbanized main island of Singapore from southern peninsula Malaysia and offshore islands. Despite the numerous sightings of wild pigs in the Western and Central parts of Singapore, no population density estimate is available. Apart from the spread of exotic species and alteration of community structure in fragmented forest patches, other impacts caused by wild pigs include conflicts with human activities. Intrusion of wild pigs into open spaces and recreational areas have caused damage to lawns, gardens, urban parks, turfs, fairways and greenery from golf courses to cemeteries. Wild pigs have contributed to military aircraft and vehicular accidents with recent evidence suggesting the propensity to extend the hazards to civilian road users. Injuries to humans were the consequence of encroachments into wild pig habitats mainly due to illegal hunting and military training activities. Unless systematic density surveys and ecological studies are conducted, lessening the magnitude of human-wildlife conflicts posed by the wild pig on native biodiversity and the environment will remain a challenge. Wild pig activities and their propensity for human-wildlife conflict in Singapore are discussed. A novel, safe and unobtrusive study method employing the use of wireless aerial thermal videography onboard a helium-inflated airship is also discussed.