

## Hong Kong Natural History Society

### Report on June 2012 Boat Outing to Tap Mun and Crescent Island

16 members with guests went to meet at Ma Liu Shui Pier when it was raining dogs and cats - literary pouring!!!!!! These brave souls went on board, only to pray and wish for some lighter rain intervals when we get to Tap Mun so that we can at least take a walk around the island. However, when we got near Tap Mun, the weather cleared up like a miracle! The sun came out just after we put away our hats and sunglasses!



First, we visited the 100 year old Qing Dynasty Tin Hau Temple. The She Wan tiles and decorations on the roof are in good condition. Many members went in to take a good look of the temple inside. Some members were interested to look at the views outside. Then we took a path leading up a hill passing by Kin Lam School. It is the only school on the island built by the local community in 1913. We then made our way up to a pavilion and took a long break in cool breezes. Just right when it was very hot and sunny near noon. After break, we all head off to see the balanced rock. On the way, we saw many spiders, big and small, dangling on perfectly woven webs waiting for their prey. The name Tap Mun, which means “stone pagoda” originates from large boulders stacked atop each other. After this photo shooting point, some members liked to stay and have a picnic and bird-watching. Others went down the Fisherman’s New Village to have a bier; while another group chose to go to the cafes near the pier to have a snack lunch.

We returned to the boat at 1:30 pm but because of the strong easterly wind on the day, we decided to go to Ngo Mei Wan in Crescent Island instead of Nam She for a swim. Mr Li this time anchored quite far from the beach as there were already two other boats there. I guess we had to swim for about 800 metres to get to the shore. Mr. Li gave us his “mercy”. He took a few to shore by his motor boat. This area is rich with different coral species and famous for coral viewing. I was snorkelling and luckily, the clown fish did not attack me this time.

After everyone had a pleasant swim, feeling refreshed in sweating heat, we set off and arrived Ma Liu Shui at about 5:30 pm – not even a raindrop on our heads!

*Mak Wei Ming, Outings Organiser*