

Hong Kong Natural History Society

Report on May 2014 Boat Trip to Double Island

23 Members met at Ma Liu Shui Public Pier and set off to Double Island. It was a fine day, just like forecasted - the weather was cloudy with occasional showers and sunny intervals. We arrived at Tung Wan (East Bay) at about 10:45 and Mr. Li took some members to the shore with his small motor boat. Some members chose to swim to the beach, while others chose to swim around the boat. It was high tide, so the coral viewing at both sides of the beach was difficult because the corals were about 4-5 meters deep under water. The path behind the beach shown on the map was very overgrown, so our explorers could not find a way through! The inlet area was very scenic and some members went to look for kingfishers which they remember encountering years ago. We found many shells on the beach, one of which was a beautiful greenish sea urchin in perfect form.



Most members took their lunch on the boat while a few decided to have a picnic at the beach. When some of us were swimming back to the boat for lunch, the sky was roaring with thunder and lightning – it was definitely not a good time to be swimming! In fact, we clearly saw flashes of lightning from a distance!! We thought it would be wise to have everybody back on the boat. After lunch, many rested and went back for a swim around the boat as the weather had again cleared. On our return journey, Mr. Li slowed the boat when he came to Port Island Channel to let us catch a glimpse of the “Ghost Hand” at Chek Chau, one of the very famous geographical features of the Geopark in that area.



We got back to the pier at about 5:00pm, all safe and well, except that one member had been stung by a horsefly and some had got sun-burnt! (although the day had been a little overcast, the UV count had still been 10!)

Mak Wei Ming

Photos by Patricia Mak and Frank Bradley