Some noteworthy reef fishes at Pulau Hantu

Subjects: Yellowbelly dottyback, *Pseudochromis ransonneti* (Teleostei: Pseudochromidae); Fig. 1.
Wolf cardinalfish, *Cheilodipterus artus* (Teleostei: Apogonidae); Figs. 2 & 3.
Cavite cardinalfish, *Ostorhinchus cavatensis* (Teleostei: Apogonidae); Fig. 1.
Pajama cardinalfish, *Sphaeramia nematoptera* (Teleostei: Apogonidae); Fig. 4.
Ventral-barred shrimp-goby, *Cryptocentrus sericus* (Teleostei: Gobiidae); Fig. 5.

Subjects identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, off Pulau Hantu; 27 October 2013; 1120-1400 hrs.

Habitat: Coral reef at depth of about 5-12 m.

Observer: Heng Pei Yan.

Observation: All the fish were observed near or on the substrate in water of at least 5 m visibility, which is considered very clear for the Singapore Straits. The cardinalfishes (figs. 1-4) and dottyback (fig. 1) were among corals. The shrimp-goby was on the sea bed at the entrance of a burrow (fig. 5) which it would be sharing with a pistol prawn, but the prawn was not photographed.

Remarks: The five species of reef fishes illustrated herein were rarely recorded in Singapore. The English names of the fishes follow those in Allen & Erdmann (2012a, 2012b). *Pseudochromis ransonneti* was described from Singapore in 1870 (Allen & Erdmann, 2012a: 341). Ng (2012: 129) features a photograph with three examples of *Cheilodipterus artus* on a reef at Semakau Landfill. According to Allen & Erdmann (2012a: 375), the adult *Cheilodipterus artus* is capable of rapidly changing the colour of the caudal peduncle from black to yellow with a black spot. Juveniles have a yellow caudal peduncle with a larger black spot. The occurrence of *Ostorhinchus cavatensis* in Singapore was first mentioned by Allen & Erdmann (2012a: 388). *Sphaeramia nematoptera* was recently recorded from the Singapore Straits by Low (2013: 33, fig. 6). Examples of *Cryptocentrus sericus* were obtained in 1977 at Pulau Salu (Larson et al., 2008: 148 as *Cryptocentrus* new species 1).

References:

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Fig. 1: *Pseudochromis ransonneti* (indicated by arrow) of about 4 cm total length, and *Ostorhinchus cavitensis* of about 6 cm total length.

Fig. 2: *Cheilodipterus artus* with yellow caudal peduncle, of about 4 cm total length.

Fig. 3: *Cheilodipterus artus* with dark caudal peduncle, of about 8 cm total length.

Photographs by Heng Pei Yan
Fig. 4: *Sphaeramia nematoptera* of about 6 cm total length.

Fig. 5: *Cryptocentrus sericus* yellow form, of about 8 cm total length.

Photographs by Heng Pei Yan