Spotted seahorses at Changi Beach

**Subjects**: Spotted, yellow, or estuarine seahorse, *Hippocampus kuda* (Teleostei: Syngnathidae).

**Subjects identified by**: Contributor & Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time**: Johor Straits, Changi Beach; 6 November 2013; evening.

**Habitat**: Intertidal zone with silty soft sand substrate and patches of macroalgae and seagrass, at the mouth of the Johor estuary during low tide.

**Observer**: Contributor.

**Observation**: Seven examples of about 4 or 5 cm body height (measured vertically from vent to coronet) were observed, two of them males with the distinct pouch at the anal region (figs. 5 & 6). The coloration varies from uniform bright yellow to greenish brown with blackish dots.

**Remarks**: Although recognized as locally vulnerable (Lim et al., 2008: 153), this observation of seven adult individuals at one location is noteworthy. *Hippocampus kuda* has a coronet (bony head crest) that is turned to the rear, relatively thick snout, and lacks nose spine and body spines (Lourie et al., 2004: 64).

**References**:
Photographs by Ron K. H. Yeo
Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Photographs by Ron K. H. Yeo

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