

Flying fish *Parexocoetus* sp. at Tanah Merah shore

Subject: *Parexocoetus* sp. (Teleostei: Exocoetidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, along East Coast near Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal; 22 September 2002; around 2000 hrs.

Habitat: Marine, shallow intertidal shore at low tide.

Observers: Chan Sow Yan & Tan Siong Kiat.

Observation: The flying fish herein illustrated was located with torch-lights on the surface of the sea in the night, in water only 50 cm deep. At around 2.5 cm in total length, the example is believed to be a juvenile.

Remarks: The flying fish pictured here in two dorso-lateral views seems to be a member of the genus *Parexocoetus* with its relatively short pectoral fins that do not extend beyond the rear part of the anal fin base. Diagnostic features for specific identification, such as the length of its dorsal fin, cannot be seen clearly on the images. *Parexocoetus* species grow to around 10 cm in standard length and inhabit neritic surface waters, not in the open sea. They are widespread across the tropical Indo-west Pacific (Parin, 1999). The presence of the genus *Parexocoetus* in Singapore was first mentioned by Wang & Lim (2011). The record was based a specimen (ZRC 3259) identified as *Parexocoetus brachypterus* in the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the National University of Singapore. That specimen has since been re-identified as *Parexocoetus mento*. (Kelvin Lim, unpublished data).

References:

Parin, N. V., 1999. Exocoetidae. In: Carpenter, K. E. & V. H. Niem (eds.). *FAO Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes. The Living Marine Resources of the Western Central Pacific. Volume 4. Bony fishes part 2 (Mugilidae to Carangidae)*. FAO, Rome. pp. 2162-2179.

Wang L. K. & K. K. P. Lim, 2011. Flyingfish. In: Ng, P. K. L., R. T. Corlett & H. T. W. Tan (eds.). *Singapore Biodiversity: an encyclopedia of the natural environment and sustainable development*. Editions Didier Millet with the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Singapore. p. 316.



Photographs by Chan Sow Yan

Contributors: **Chan Sow Yan & Kelvin K. P. Lim**

Contact address: dbslimkp@nus.edu.sg (Lim)