

New record of nudibranch *Dermatobranchus fortunatus* in Singapore

Subject: *Dermatobranchus fortunatus* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Arminidae).

Subject identified by: Toh Chay Hoon.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, off Pulau Subar Darat; 29 July 2015; 1130 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef at between 4 and 6 m depth.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: A small sea slug of 9 mm total length (ex-situ measurement, Fig. 1) was found gliding on the silty substrate of a coral reef. This specimen has a white body with a series of dark brown patches, each fusing with an orange band along the margins of the mantle. Bulbous rhinophores with orange-and-black apical bands and white tips are present. The oral veil is white with a single orange patch on the anterior end (Fig. 2). There is a hidden gill between the foot and the mantle (Fig. 3).

Remarks: *Dermatobranchus fortunatus* (Bergh, 1888) is absent on the list of Singapore molluscs compiled by Tan & Woo (2010). Although examples have previously been noted by other observers in Singapore waters, the one featured here appears to be the first published record of this species there.

References:

Bergh, R., 1888. Die Pleuroleüriden, eine familie der Nudibranchiaten Gaströopoden. *Zoologische Jahrbücher. Abteilung für Systematik Geographie und Biologie der Tiere.* 36: 348–364.

Tan S. K. & H. P. M. Woo, 2010. *A Preliminary Checklist of the Molluscs of Singapore.* Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 78 pp.

Note: This is a contribution of the **Singapore Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey Southern Expedition** conducted by the Tropical Marine Science Institute of the National University of Singapore and the National Parks Board.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of 9 mm (total length) *Dermatobranchus fortunatus* from off Pulau Subar Darat. Distance between each black bar 1 mm. Photograph by Tan Yee Keat

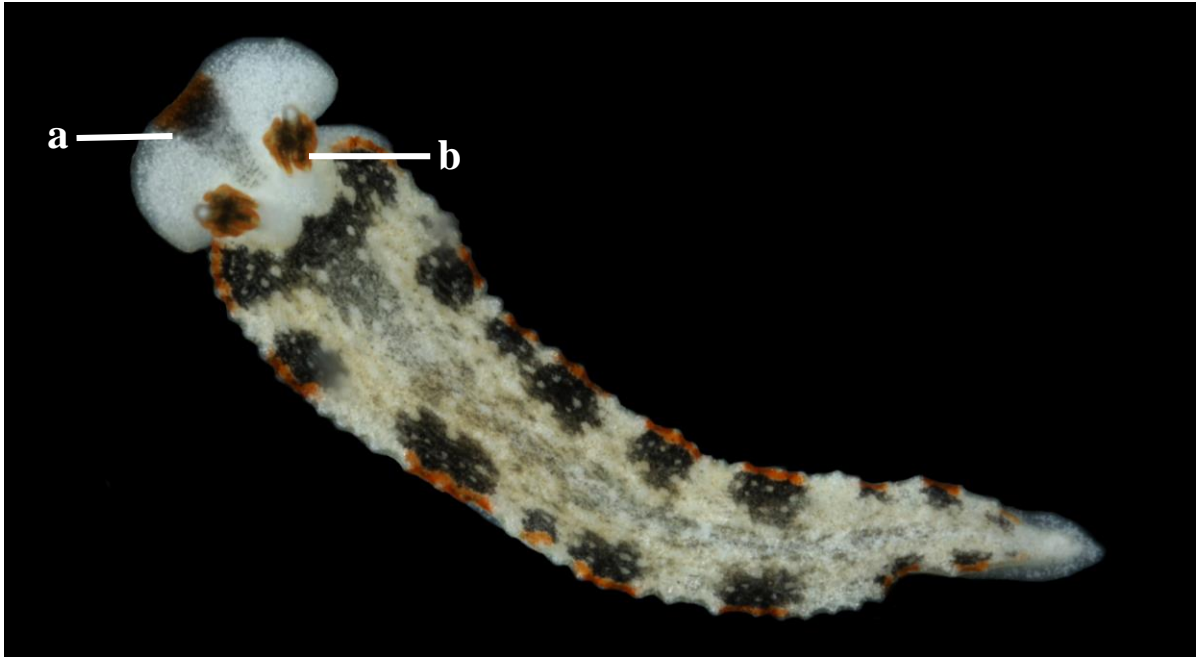


Fig. 2. Dorsal view of *Dermatobranchus fortunatus* from Pulau Subar Darat showing (a) white oral veil with single orange patch on the anterior end; and (b) bulbous rhinophores with orange-and-black apical bands and white tips.



Fig 3. Ventral view of *Dermatobranchus fortunatus* from Pulau Subar Darat. The gill is hidden between the foot and the mantle.

Photographs by Tan Yee Keat

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