

## First Singapore record of the Günther's flounder

**Subject:** Günther's flounder, *Laeops guentheri* (Teleostei: Pleuronectiformes: Bothidae).

**Subject identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Strait, Cyrene Reef; 27 May 2013; morning.

**Habitat:** Marine. Coral reef flat, at low tide.

**Observers:** Lee Yen Ling and others.

**Observation:** One example of 70.1 mm standard length (tip of snout to base of caudal fin) was collected with a hand-net in shallow water at low-tide. The specimen is deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore under the catalogue number ZRC 56266. The accompanying photograph shows the eyed-side of the freshly dead, but rather battered specimen.

**Remarks:** This appears to be first record of *Laeops guentheri* in Singapore's waters (see Fowler, 1938). The genus *Laeops* is characterised by having large eyes on the left side of the body; first ray of pelvic fin on eyed side on or near isthmus; upper jaw two times or greater in head length, not extending to rear edge of lower eye; all upper jaw teeth and nearly all, or all, lower jaw teeth confined to the blind side. *Laeops guentheri* is distinguished from its congeners in having its upper profile convex above and behind eye, body depth 2.5 to 3 times in standard length, and 76-83 anal fin rays. It is known to reach a total length of 14 cm, and has been taken at depths of 15 to 329 m, on sand-mud or sand-broken shell substrates, from Persian Gulf eastwards through Indonesia to the Gulf of Thailand (Hensley & Amaoka, 2001: 3835). The present record is unusual in that it was taken in an intertidal zone.



Photograph by Kelvin K. P. Lim

### References:

- Fowler, H. W., 1938. A list of the fishes known from Malaya. *Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore*. 1: 1-268.  
Hensley, D. A. & K. Amaoka, 2001. Bothidae. Lefteye flounders. 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 6. Bony fishes Part 4 (Labridae to Latimeriidae), estuarine crocodiles, sea turtles, sea snakes and marine mammals*. FAO, Rome. pp. 3799-3841.

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

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