

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:

Lim, K. K. P., H. H. Tan & J. K. Y. Low, 2008. Fishes. In: Davison, G. W. H., Ng, P. K. L. & H. C. Ho (Eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. Second Edition. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 145-154.

Lourie, S. A., S. J. Foster, E. W. T. Cooper & A. C. J. Vincent, 2004. *A Guide to the Identification of Seahorses*. Project Seahorse and TRAFFIC North America, Washington D. C. ii + 114 pp.



Fig. 1

Photograph by Ron K. H. Yeo



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Photographs by Ron K. H. Yeo



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Photographs by Ron K. H. Yeo

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