

Coral cat-sharks at eastern Johor Straits

Subjects: Coral cat-shark, *Atelomycterus marmoratus* (Elasmobranchi: Scyliorhinidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Eastern Johor Straits north of Pulau Tekong; 25 December 2007 & 20 April 2011.

Habitat: Estuary, in intertidal area with coral rubble.

Observers: Chim Chee Kong and others.

Observations: There are two records from the same location in the present contribution.

1) A very dark juvenile of about 10 cm total length (Fig. 1) was found during low tide on 25 December 2007 at 1654 hrs.

2) Two adult examples of about 60 cm total length (Fig. 2) were among fishes trapped inside a bubu (cage fish trap) found on 20 April 2011 at 0734 hrs.

Remarks: The coral cat-shark reaches a maximum total length of 70 cm, and is easily distinguished from the sympatric bamboo sharks (*Chiloscyllium* spp.) by its anal fin being inserted before the second dorsal fin (after second dorsal fin in *Chiloscyllium*). It inhabits coral reefs and is oviparous, laying pairs of egg-cases (Compagno et al., 2005: 210). In Singapore, it is known from the Singapore Straits. The present records appear to be the first from the Johor Straits, and in an estuarine location.

References: Compagno, L., M. Dando & S. Fowler, 2005. *A Field Guide to the Sharks of the World*. Harper Collins Publishers Ltd., London. 368 pp.



Fig. 1. Juvenile example on 25 December 2007. Fig. 2. Two adult examples (second one at left corner of picture) in a fish trap on 20 April 2011. Photographs by Chim Chee Kong

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