Scrawled filefish at Saint John’s Island


Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, Saint John’s Island, under island’s main jetty; 1 June 2010; 0826 hrs.

Habitat: Marine, concrete jetty, near coral reef.

Observer: Abigayle Ng.

Observation: An example of about 50 cm total length was observed near a pillar of the jetty, suspended in the water column with its head facing downwards.

Remarks: The scrawled filefish attains 75 cm in total length and lives alone in coastal seas down to 80 m depth throughout the tropics (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 1070). However, this appears to be the first confirmed record of this species in Singapore waters. A specimen obtained at a local market in the 1930’s (Tweedie, 1940: 77 as *Anacanthus scriptus*) may not have originated from Singapore waters.

References: