

Scrawled filefish at Saint John's Island

Subject: Scrawled filefish, *Aluterus scriptus* (Teleostei: Monacanthidae).

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.

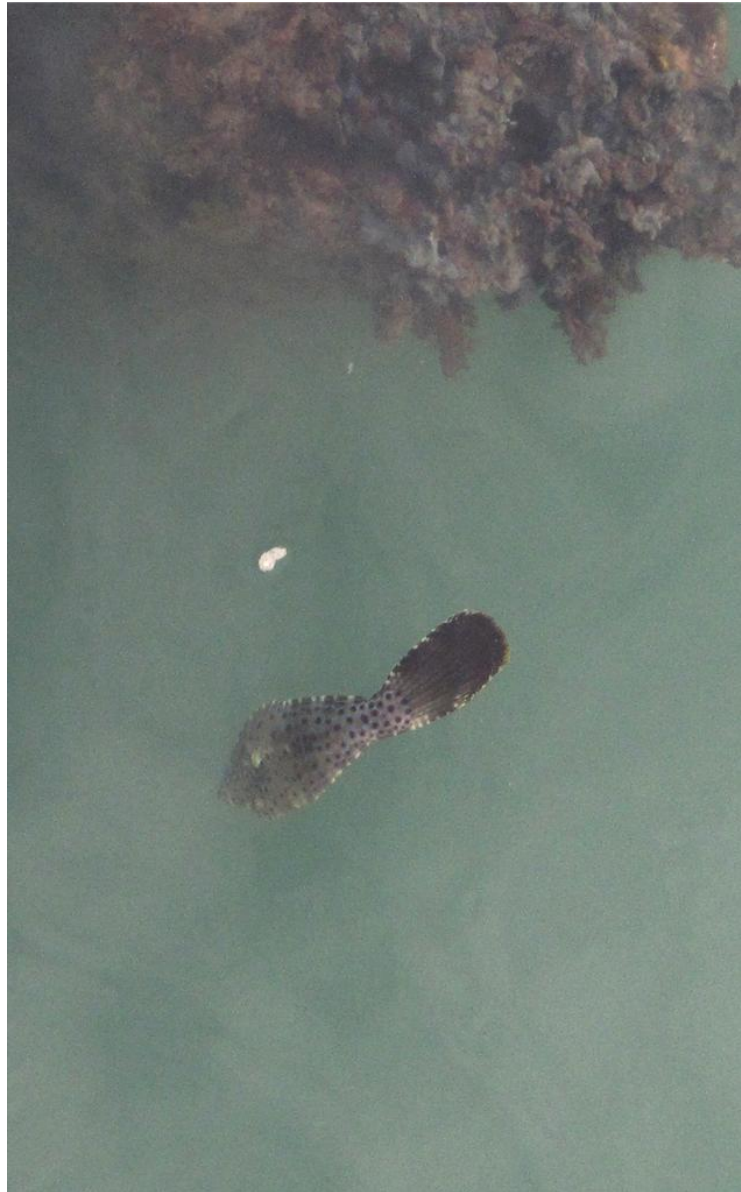
Observation: An example of about 50 cm total length was observed near a pillar of the jetty, suspended in the water column with its head facing downwards.

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:

Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume III.* Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. pp.857-1292.

Tweedie, M. W. F., 1940. Additions to the collection of fishes in the Raffles Museum. *Bulletin of the Raffles Museum, Singapore.* 16: 68-82.



Photograph by Abigayle Ng

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