

Schultz's pipefish off Pulau Hantu

Subject: Schultz's pipefish, *Corythoichthys schultzi* (Teleostei: Syngnathidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, off Pulau Hantu; 8 December 2013; 1400 hrs.

Habitat: Marine, coral reef, at about 5 m depth.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: A relatively young example of about 8 cm total length was observed slithering about on the substrate among corals.

Remarks: Three species of the pipefish genus *Corythoichthys* have been recorded from Singapore. They are the reef-top pipefish (*Corythoichthys haematopterus*), the yellow-spotted pipefish (*C. polynotatus*) (Kuitert, 2000: 113 & 119; Kuitert, 2009: 197 & 203), and the herein reported Schultz's pipefish. The *Corythoichthys ocellatus* recorded from Semakau (Ng, 2012: 129 & 146) appears to be *C. schultzi*. The two species are very similar with pairs of squarish orange spots on the back, but *C. schultzi* has a series of short lines on the sides. *Corythoichthys schultzi* grows to 16 cm in total length (Kuitert, 2009: 200). This seems to be the first record of the Schultz's pipefish from Singapore.

References:

- Kuitert, R. H., 2000. *Seahorses, Pipefishes and their Relatives*. TMC Publishing, Chorleywood, UK. 240 pages.
- Kuitert, R. H., 2009. *Seahorses and their Relatives*. Aquatic Photographics, Seaford, Australia. 334 pp.
- Ng, M. F. C., 2012. *Habitats in Harmony: The Story of Semakau Landfill*. Second edition. National Environment Agency, Singapore. 157 pp.



Photograph by Toh Chay Hoon

Contributors: **Toh Chay Hoon & Kelvin K. P. Lim**
Contact address: dbslimkp@nus.edu.sg (Lim)