

New record of white-faced pipefish in Singapore

Subjects: White-faced pipefish, *Corythoichthys cf. amplexus* (Teleostei: Syngnathidae).

Subjects identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, off western Pulau Hantu; 27 April 2014; around 1000 hrs.

Habitat: Coral reef, at depth of about 8 m. On rock with macroalgae, sponges and corals.

Observers: Ng Boon Leong & Khoo Min Hui.

Observation: About 10 examples, the largest of at least 8 cm total length, were observed close to one another, crawling about on the substrate (Fig. 1, 2 & 3).

Remarks: The white-faced pipefish is identifiable as *Corythoichthys amplexus*, the brown-banded pipefish (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 188). However, according to Kuitert (2009: 190), it is one of a number of distinct and possibly un-named close relatives of the brown-banded pipefish. He calls this form '*Corythoichthys* sp. 2' and considers *Corythoichthys amplexus* to be restricted to the area around Fiji, its type locality. The present species has a wider distribution in the Western Pacific, stretching from southern Japan to tropical Australia. It is distinguished from its congeners in Singapore waters by its very short snout, dark-coloured bars that are broader than the pale interspaces, head in front of eyes white, and snout with dark reddish lateral stripe or spots (Fig. 1 & 2). This species is a new record for Singapore, and the fourth species of *Corythoichthys* to be known from there (see Toh & Lim, 2014).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume I*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. xiii + 424 pp.
- Kuitert, R. H., 2009. *Seahorses and their Relatives*. Aquatic Photographics, Seaford, Australia. 334 pp.
- Toh C. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2014. Schultz's pipefish off Pulau Hantu. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 37.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of a white-faced pipefish with its head to the right. Photograph by Ng Boon Leong



Fig. 2. Lateral view of a white-faced pipefish, with its snout pointing to the left.

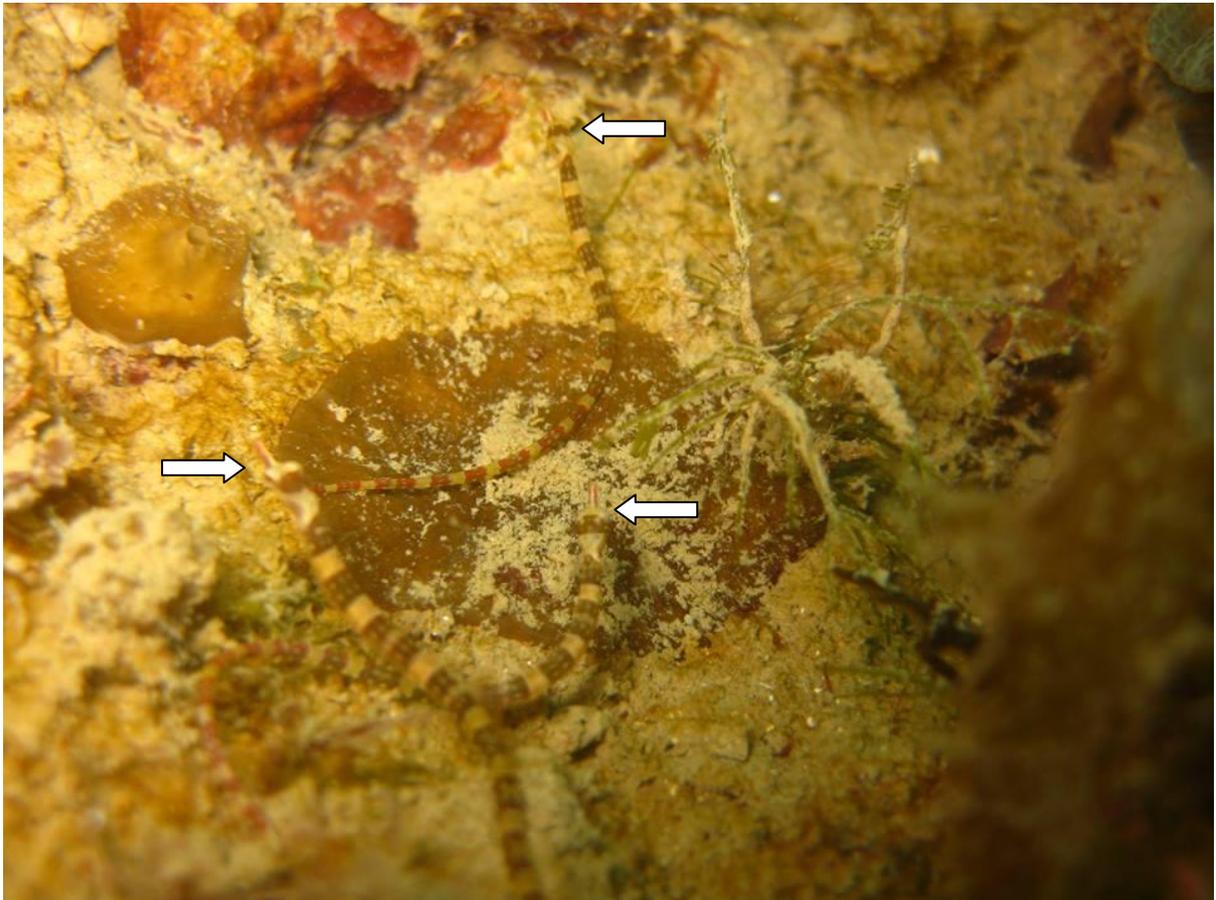


Fig. 3. Three individuals of this apparently gregarious species can be seen here, each with its head indicated by an arrow.

Photographs by Ng Boon Leong

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