

Threadfin sandperch off Pulau Hantu

Subject: Threadfin sandperch, *Parapercis filamentosa* (Teleostei: Pinguipedidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, off Pulau Hantu; 4 May 2014; 0950 hrs.

Habitat: Coral reef at depth of approximately 12 m. Substrate of sand and silt.

Observer: Koh Kwan Siong.

Observation: An example of about 10 cm total length was observed on the seabed (Fig. 1 & 2).

Remarks: The threadfin sandperch is known to occur around Hainan, the South China Sea coast of Thailand, Java, as well as from Singapore. It is believed to frequent muddy habitats and grows to about 18 cm in total length (Randall, 2001: 3507). Apparently very little is known about the habits of this species.

The threadfin sandperch is characterised by the anterior rays of its second dorsal fin which are produced into long filaments (Fig. 1). There are about seven dusky bars with blackish spots along the upper half of its body, and a series of large dusky blotches on the whitish lower side. At the caudal fin base are two 'small dark brown spots, one above the other' (Randall, 2001: 3502). Regarding this pair of spots at the caudal base, the example in the accompanying photographs has distinctly larger markings, with the upper blotch being considerably bigger than the one below (Fig. 1).

Caudal blotches of dissimilar sizes are also found on three preserved specimens of *Parapercis filamentosa* in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore. Two of them (ZRC 38087: 101.5 and 103.6 mm standard length) were collected from the Sungei Punggol on 28 March 1967. The third (ZRC 54490: 59.3 mm standard length) was seined at the beach at Changi Point. Both are estuarine localities in the eastern Johor Straits. In contrast, the example shown here was observed on coral reef in the Singapore Straits.

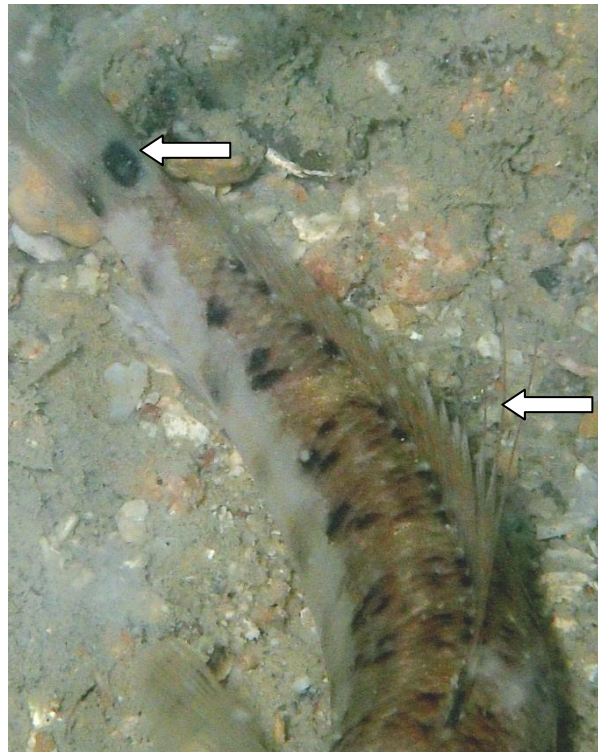


Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of the body of the threadfin sandperch behind the head. The arrow at the top left points to the larger of the twin blotches at the base of the caudal fin. The arrow at the middle right indicates the characteristic filamentous extensions of the rays at the anterior part of the second dorsal fin. Photograph by Koh Kwan Siong

Reference: Randall, J. E., 2001. Pinguipedidae (= Parapercidae, Mugiloididae). Sandperches. p. 3501-3510. In: Carpenter, K. E. & V. H. Niem (eds.). *FAO Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes. The Living Marine Resources of the Western Central Pacific. Volume 6. Bony fishes part 4 (Labridae to Latimeriidae), estuarine crocodiles, sea turtles, sea snakes and marine mammals*. FAO, Rome. v + 3381-4218.

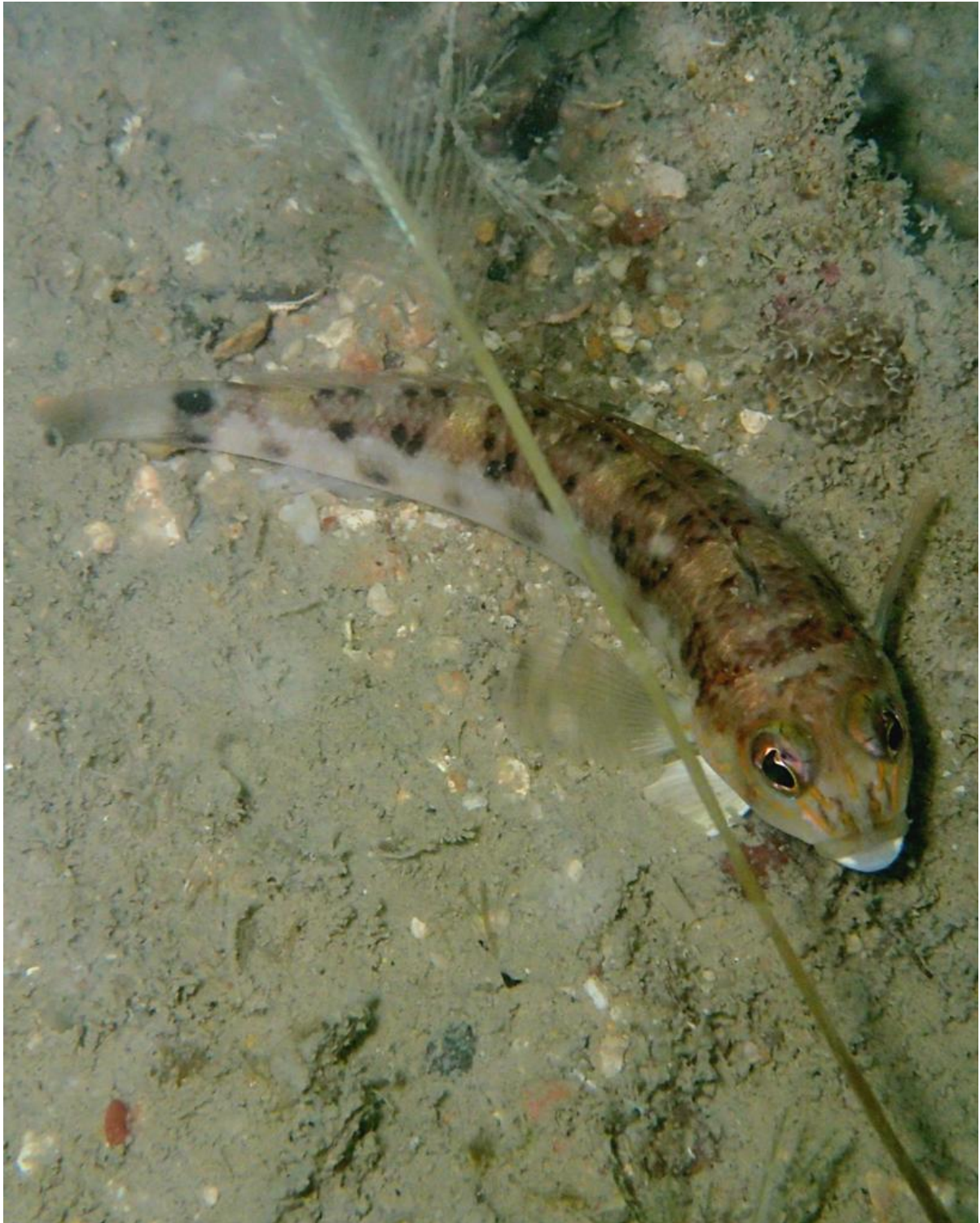


Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of entire threadfin sandperch on the substrate. Photograph by Koh Kwan Siong

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