

New record of triplebar razorfish in Singapore

Subject: Triplebar razorfish, *Iniistius trivittatus*
(Teleostei: Labridae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, Lazarus-Kias Island; 24 May 2013; around 0400 hrs.

Habitat: Intertidal zone of soft sand and sea-grass on beach within artificial lagoon. At low tide.

Observers: Ria Tan, Lee Yen Ling, Daphne Fautin & Suzan Saidin.

Observation: An example was found buried in the damp substrate with its head sticking out (Fig. 1). It was collected and measured 105.8 mm from snout tip to tail base (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. Triplebar razorfish found alive with its head exposed. Photograph by Ria Tan

Remarks: The specimen is catalogued as ZRC 54127 in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore. It represents the first record of *Iniistius trivittatus* in Singapore waters (Randall & Cornish, 2000, as *Xyrichtys trivittatus*).

This is the second species of the genus *Iniistius* known from Singapore. De Beaufort (1940) recorded the fivefinger razorfish, *Iniistius pentadactylus* (as *Hemipteronotus pentadactylus*), from Singapore. It is distinguished from the triplebar razorfish by having 4 or 5 overlapping red spots above the pectoral fin and a dark blotch on the anterior part of the mid-body. However, we are not aware of any subsequent record of the fivefinger razorfish from Singapore.

References:

- De Beaufort, L. F., 1940. *The Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago. VIII. Percomorphi (continued), Cirrhitidae, Labriformes, Pomacentrifformes*. E. J. Brill, Leiden. xv + 508 pp.
- Randall, J. E. & A. S. Cornish, 2000. *Xyrichtys trivittatus*, a new species of razorfish (Perciformes: Labridae) from Hong Kong and Taiwan. *Zoological Studies (Taiwan)*. 39 (1): 18-22.

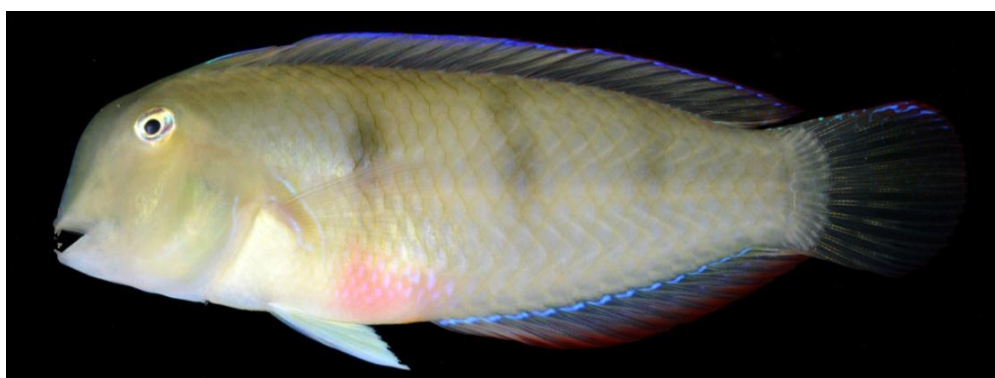


Fig. 2. Lateral view of freshly dead specimen. Photograph by Jose C. Mendoza courtesy of CMBS

Note: This is a contribution of the Singapore **Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey (CMBS)** conducted by the National University of Singapore's Tropical Marine Science Institute and the National Parks Board.

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