

Confirmed occurrence of the collare butterflyfish in Singapore

Subject: Collare butterflyfish, *Chaetodon collare* (Teleostei: Chaetodontidae).

Subject identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, Terumbu Pempang Tengah; 5 June 2013; morning.

Habitat: Marine, on coral reef.

Observers: Tan Heok Hui and others.

Observation: One example of 105.7 mm standard length and 129.0 mm total length was found inside a cage fish trap set on the reef. It has been preserved in the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore, under the catalogue number ZRC 54143 (see accompanying photograph).

Remarks: This represents the first confirmed record of *Chaetodon collare* in Singapore waters. Tweedie (1940: 72) had reported this species as *Chaetodon (Chaetodontops) collare* from Singapore, but the material was obtained from a fishmarket there. He did caution that ‘while the majority [of fishes] probably come from the neighbourhood of Singapore, [they] may have been caught five hundred miles or more away and should not... be included in any list of fishes from “Malaya” [which includes Singapore]’ (Tweedie, 1940: 68).

The collare butterflyfish is widely distributed along the northern Indian Ocean and in western Indonesia and the Philippines (Allen et al., 1998: 135), and Singapore is located within its range. However, the possibility of the present example being a recently abandoned pet is not to be ignored, for this species is a popular and common ornamental fish.

References:

- Allen, G. R., R. Steene & M. Allen, 1998. *A Guide to Angelfishes & Butterflyfishes*. Odyssey Publishing and Tropical Reef Research. 250 pp.
- Tweedie, M. W. F., 1940. Additions to the collection of fishes in the Raffles Museum. *Bulletin of the Raffles Museum, Singapore*. 16: 68-82.

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



Lateral view of *Chaetodon collare* (ZRC 54143).
Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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