

Broad-banded velvetchin in the Singapore Straits

Subjects: Broad-banded velvetchin, *Hapalogenys analis* (Teleostei: Haemulidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits; 20, 29 & 30 May 2013; morning.

Habitat: Marine. Over sandy and rocky substrates at depths of between 33 and 125 m.

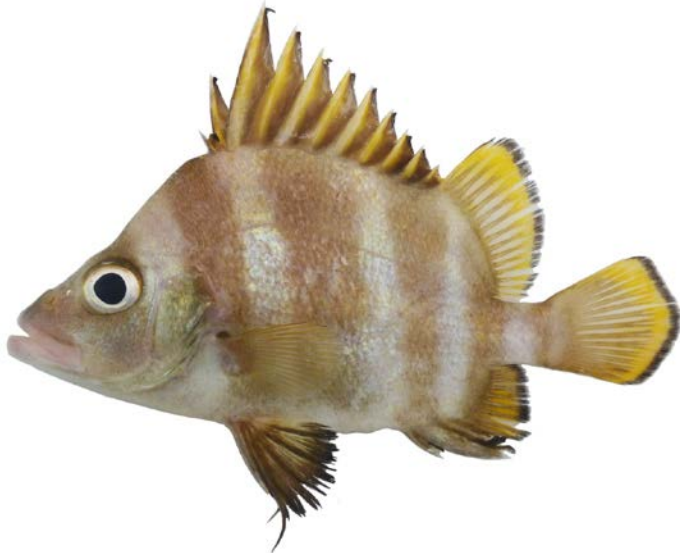
Observers: Lim Swee Cheng and others.

Observations: A total of five examples were obtained from three collections. All are preserved and catalogued in the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore.

1) One example of 81.2 mm standard length (ZRC 54129) was obtained by beam trawl from a depth of about 40 m on 20 May 2013 at the Gusong Boarding Ground off the southern edge of Semakau Landfill and near Pulau Satumu.

2) Two specimens of 98.0 and 110.2 mm standard length (ZRC 54128) were dredged from between 33 and 34 m depth at the Southern Fairway south of the Sister Islands, on 29 May 2013. The smaller example is illustrated in the accompanying photograph.

3) Another two individuals of 79.7 and 81.9 mm standard length (ZRC 54130) were caught by beam trawl from a depth of 123 to 125 m along the Eastern Boarding Ground A on 30 May 2013.



Photograph by Kelvin K. P. Lim

Remarks: This distinctive fish was first recorded from Singapore with an example obtained by hook and line off Lazarus Island in the Singapore Straits in 1994 (Lim, 1994). The recent captures confirm the presence of a population of this species in Singapore waters. The broad-banded velvetchin is otherwise known mostly from the northern part of the South China Sea and East China Sea in coastal inshore waters near reefs (McKay, 2001: 2968). In Singapore, this species appears to frequent deeper waters of around 33 m down to at least 125 m.

References:

- Lim, K. K. P., 1994. First record of *Hapalogenys analis* (Teleostei: Perciformes: Haemulidae) from the Indo-Australian region. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. 42 (4): 983-985.
- McKay, R. J., 2001. Haemulidae. 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 5. Bony fishes part 3 (Menidae to Pomacentridae)*. FAO, Rome. pp. 2961-2989.

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.

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