

## Tomato anemonefish off Lazarus-Seringat Island

**Subjects:** Tomato anemonefish, *Amphiprion frenatus* (Teleostei: Pomacentridae).  
Bubble-tip sea anemone, *Entacmaea quadricolor* (Cnidaria: Actiniaria: Actiniidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Straits off Lazarus-Seringat Island; 16 March 2014; around 1400 hrs.

**Habitat:** Coral reef, at depth of about 5 m.

**Observer:** Contributor and others.

**Observation:** A pair of adult tomato anemonefish, the larger about 12 cm in total length, was observed among the long tentacles of a large bubble-tip sea anemone of around 50 cm in diameter (see accompanying picture).

**Remarks:** The tomato anemonefish is one of the larger and more commonly seen members of the genus *Amphiprion* in Singapore waters, and *Entacmaea quadricolor* is its primary sea anemone host. In every pair of *Amphiprion frenatus*, the larger fish with a black body is the female while the bright orange and smaller individual tends to be the male. *Entacmaea quadricolor* does not always have bubble-tipped tentacles. It has been suggested that individuals hosting fish tend to have bulbous tentacles, while those with unexpanded tentacles are likely to be fishless (see Michael, 2008: 170). Note, however, that the sea anemone featured here hosting a pair of mature fish has both bulbous and unexpanded tentacles.

**Reference:** Michael, S. W., 2008. *Damselfishes & Anemonefishes. The Complete Illustrated Guide to their Identification, Behaviors, and Captive Care.* T.F.H. Publications, Inc. and Microcosm, Ltd., USA. 256 pp.



Photograph by Toh Chay Hoon

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