

New record of robust ribbon-goby in Singapore

Subjects: Robust ribbon-goby, *Oxymetopon compressus* (Teleostei: Ptereleotridae).

Subjects identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim & Zeehan Jaafar.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, channel between patch reefs off the western part of Pulau Hantu; 14 December 2014; around 1130 hrs.

Habitat: Marine, open patch of sand and silt, at about 7 to 9 m depth.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: Two individuals of about 15 cm total length (Fig. 1) were observed hovering off the silt substrate above the entrance of a burrow (Fig. 2). No alpheid shrimp or shrimp-goby were seen at the burrow. One of the fish dived into the burrow (Fig. 3) after a while.

Remarks: This is the first record of *Oxymetopon compressus* in Singapore waters. The fish is laterally flattened, and has a rounded head profile, blue markings on the head, dusky grey lower body which merges with the blackish lower part of the caudal fin. It inhabits mud bottoms in small groups and shelters in burrows. The species has been recorded from eastern Sumatra, the Gulf of Thailand, southern China, the Ryukyu Islands, southwards to New Guinea and tropical Australia (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 994). This observation was made in depths far shallower than the 15 to 40 m range cited by Allen & Erdmann (2012: 994).

After *Parioglossus palustris* and *Ptereleotris hanae*, *Oxymetopon compressus* is the third species of dartfish (Ptereleotridae) that is confirmed to occur in Singapore waters (Larson et al., 2008: 151; Jaafar & Ng, 2013).



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the two *Oxymetopon compressus* off Pulau Hantu. Photograph by Jeemee Goh



Fig. 2. View of the entrance of the burrow with the two fish hovering above its right edge. Photograph by Gina Tan.



Fig. 3. One of the fish had dived into the burrow upon the photographer's approach. The other fish continued to hover, but moved a little further away from the burrow's entrance. Photograph by Gina Tan

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume III*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. p. 857-1292.
- Jaafar, Z. & D. Ng, 2012. New record of the blue-tailed dartfish, *Ptereleotris hanae* (Teleostei: Ptereleotridae) in Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*. 5: 369-371.
- Larson, H. K., Z. Jaafar & K. K. P. Lim, 2008. An annotated checklist of the gobioid fishes of Singapore. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. 56 (1): 135-155.

Contributors: Jeemee **Goh** & Gina **Tan**

Contact addresses: jeemee.g@gmail.com (Goh), gtanlc@yahoo.com.sg (Tan)