

New record of ornate slippery goby *Lubricogobius ornatus* in Singapore

Subject: Ornate slippery goby, *Lubricogobius ornatus* (Teleostei: Gobiidae).

Subject identified by: Zeehan Jaafar & Helen K. Larson.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, vicinity of boat wreck on western side of Pulau Hantu; 12 April 2015, 1527 hrs.

Habitat: Marine, on silty substrate among dead corals, at around 10 m depth.

Observer: Gina Tan.

Observation: An individual of about 2 cm total length was observed on the substrate (see attached picture). Although it was resting motionless on the seabed, it made occasional but quick forages on passing planktonic organisms.

Remarks: First described from specimens found in Nha-Trang market in Vietnam, this species has been observed in various parts of the Indo-Pacific but here recorded for the first time in Singapore (Larson et al. 2008). *Lubricogobius ornatus* inhabits sand, silt and rubble substrates and shelters in dead shells, worm tubes, tunicates and even empty bottles in depths of between 15 and 70 m. It has been recorded from the Ryukyu Islands, Vietnam, the Philippines, New Guinea and north-western Australia (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 926).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume III*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. pp. 857-1292.
- 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.



Photograph by Gina Tan

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