

## New record of flower cardinalfish in Singapore

**Subjects:** Flower cardinalfish, *Ostorhinchus fleurieu* (Teleostei: Apogonidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Strait, off Pulau Hantu; 1 May 2015; around 1430 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine, around boat wreck on seabed among coral reef at about 9 m depth.

**Observers:** Koh Kwan Siong, with Toh Chay Hoon and Heng Pei Yan.

**Observation:** Eight to 10 examples of about 7 cm total length were observed hovering with other fishes around the remains of a sunken boat. Two of them are illustrated in the accompanying pictures.

**Remarks:** The flower cardinalfish is widely distributed in the tropical Indo-west Pacific from the Red Sea and East Africa, throughout the East Indies to the Solomon Islands, and north to Hong Kong and Taiwan. It closely resembles the ring-tailed cardinalfish, *Ostorhinchus aureus*, but has a rounded spot or bar with convex (rather than concave) edges (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 392). This species is herein recorded for the first time in Singapore waters (Ng & Lim, 2014).

The ring-tailed cardinalfish, *Ostorhinchus aureus*, is recorded from Singapore on the basis of a picture labelled Singapore in a guide on coral reef animals by Debelius (2001: 99 as *Apogon aureus*). However, Ng & Lim (2014: 1062) were not convinced that the photograph was actually taken in Singapore waters, and regarded the record as a dubious one.

### References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume I*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. xiii + 424 pp.
- Debelius, H., 2001. *Asia Pacific Reef Guide*. IKAN – Unterwasserarchiv, Frankfurt, Germany. 321 pp.
- Ng H. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2014. A preliminary checklist of the cardinalfishes (Actinopterygii: Gobiiformes: Apogonidae) of Singapore. *Check List*. 10 (5): 1061-1070.



Photographs by Koh Kwan Siong

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