

Globe urchin in the Singapore Strait

Subject: Globe urchin, *Mespilia globulus* (Echinoidea: Temnopleuridea: Temnopleuridae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, off Pulau Satumu; 10 April 2015; around 2000 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Fringing coral reef, on coral rubble, at about 5 m depth.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: An example of about 8 cm diameter was observed on the substrate. It was carrying pieces of macroalgae and debris, possibly to conceal itself (see accompanying picture).

Remarks: *Mespilia globulus* occurs in shallow water coral rubble and patch reefs, from the Bay of Bengal, through Indonesia, the Philippines and tropical Australia, to the Marshall Islands (Gosliner et al., 1996: 273). This species is not mentioned by Lane & Vandenspiegel (2003) as occurring in Singapore.

References:

- Gosliner, T. M., D. W. Behrens & G. C. Williams, 1996. *Coral Reef Animals of the Indo-Pacific. Animal life from Africa to Hawai'i exclusive of the vertebrates*. Sea Challengers, Monterey, California. vi + 314 pp.
- Lane, D. J. W. & D. Vandenspiegel, 2003. *A Guide to Sea Stars and other Echinoderms of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre. 187 pp.



Photograph by Jeffrey K. Y. Low

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