

Humpback grouper at Chek Jawa

Subject: Humpback grouper, *Cromileptes altivelis* (Teleostei: Serranidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor & Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Johor Strait, Chek Jawa at eastern end of Pulau Ubin; 4 July 2015; around 0700 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine. In tide pool of under 10 cm depth during morning low tide, in area of coral rubble and seagrass.

Observers: Contributor, Heng Pei Yan & Marcus F. C. Ng.

Observation: A relatively small example of about 12 cm total length was observed retreating among rocks.

Remarks: *Cromileptes altivelis* was last recorded from Singapore in the Singapore Strait off Pulau Semakau in 2005 (Low et al., 2009: 78-80). Although Singapore is within its native range, this commercially important fish is regularly imported for the live seafood trade and for mariculture (Jaafar et al., 2012: 82, 85). It is possible that the featured specimen was an escapee from a floating fish farm nearby.

References:

- Jaafar, Z., D. C. J. Yeo, H. H. Tan & R. M. O'Riordan, 2012. Status of estuarine and marine non-indigenous species in Singapore. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. Supplement No. 25: 79-92.
- Low, J. K. Y., J. I. T. Tanzil & Z. Jaafar, 2009. Some noteworthy fishes observed in the Singapore Straits. *Nature in Singapore*. 2: 77-82.



Photograph by Toh Chay Hoon

Contributor: **Toh Chay Hoon**
Contact address: nhmch@nus.edu.sg