

Pastel-green wrasse in the Singapore Strait

Subject: Pastel-green wrasse, *Halichoeres chloropterus* (Teleostei: Labridae).

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

Location, date and time: 1) Singapore Strait off Sisters' Islands; 8 January 2014; around 1300 hrs;
2) Singapore Strait off Pulau Satumu; 4 May 2015; around 1000 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef at depths of between 2 and 5 m.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: One example of about 5 cm total length was observed off Sisters' Islands (see attached photograph). At least three separate individuals, each also around 5 cm total length, were seen off Pulau Satumu. They were swimming just off the substrates, picking at algae, presumably for small invertebrates.

Remarks: This species has been recorded from Singapore (Fowler, 1938: 193). The individuals observed are all juveniles, being plain green with a white abdomen (Kuitert, 2002: 140). Larger examples have different colour pattern. Pastel-green wrasses attain a maximum total length of 19 cm, and occur throughout the East Indian region from the Andaman Sea to the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and the Great Barrier Reef (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 670).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume II*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. p. 425-856.
- Fowler, H. W., 1938. A list of the fishes known from Malaya. *Fisheries Bulletin*. 1: 1-268.
- Kuitert, R. H., 2002. *Fairy & Rainbow Wrasses and their Relatives. A Comprehensive Guide to Selected Labroids*. TMC Publishing, Chorleywood, U.K. 208 pp.



A juvenile pastel-green wrasses off Sisters' Islands on 8 January 2014. Photograph by Jeffrey K. Y. Low

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