

New record of brick seamoth in Singapore

Subject: Brick seamoth, *Pegasus laternarius* (Teleostei: Pegasiformes: Pegasidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island along the Johor Strait, fish farm along Neo Tiew Crescent; 26 September 2015; around 1000 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine.

Observer: Jason Ong.

Observation: An example of about 6 cm standard length (tip of snout to tail base) was found dead in a water catchment pond. Its dorsal aspect is shown in the attached picture.

Remarks: The specimen, presently deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore (ZRC 54714), is believed to have been brought in by seawater pumped up from the Johor Strait outside the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. This species is readily distinguished from the locally uncommon slender seamoth (*Pegasus volitans*) in having a broader body and a much shorter rostrum. It is distributed in the eastern Indian Ocean and the western Pacific from Malaysia to Japan, and usually occurs on mud bottoms at depths of between 27 and 100 m (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 179; Kuitert, 2009: 317). This appears to be the first record of *Pegasus laternarius* from Singapore waters (Fowler, 1938; Herre & Myers, 1937).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume I*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. xiii + 424 pp.
- Fowler, H. W., 1938. A list of the fishes known from Malaya. *Fisheries Bulletin*. 1: 1-268.
- Herre, A. W. C. T. & G. S. Myers, 1937. A contribution to the ichthyology of the Malay Peninsula. *Bulletin of the Raffles Museum, Singapore*. 13: 5-75.
- Kuitert, R. H., 2009. *Seahorses and their relatives*. Aquatic Photographics, Seaford, Australia. 334 pp.



Photograph by Jason Ong

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