

New record of the featherstar *Cenometra bella* in Singapore

Subject: *Cenometra bella* (Echinodermata: Crinoidea: Colobometridae).

Subject identified by: Charles Messing.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, south of Kusu Island; 31 May 2013; about 1050 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, subtidal zone at depth of 11 m.

Observer: Charles Messing.

Observation: A single example with arms banded yellow and dark brown, and of about 18 cm in diameter (length of longest arm about 8.5 cm), was found clinging to a sea whip during a dive (see accompanying photograph).

Remarks: The specimen was collected and deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore, under the catalogue number ZRC.ECH.0467.

Although *Cenometra bella* has been observed in the surrounding regions including Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines (Arguelles et al., 2010; Messing, 1998; Kirkendale & Messing, 2003), the featured example appears to be the first record of the species in Singapore waters (see Lane & Vandenspiegel, 2003). *Cenometra bella* is usually found attached to sea whips (Kirkendale & Messing, 2003).

References:

- Arguelles, C. C., R. M. de la Paz & F. G. Claveria, 2010. Identification of feather stars (Echinodermata: Crinoidea: Comatulida) at Subic Bay, Zambales, Philippines. *Philippine Journal of Science*. 139 (1): 51-60.
- Kirkendale, L. & C. G. Messing, 2003. An annotated checklist and key to the Crinoidea of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. *Micronesica*. 35: 523-546
- Lane, D. J. W. & D. Vandenspiegel, 2003. *A Guide to Sea Stars and other Echinoderms of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre. 187 pp.
- Messing, C. G., 1998. An initial re-assessment of the distribution and diversity of the East Indian shallow-water crinoid fauna. In: Mooi, R. & M. Telford (eds.). *Echinoderms*. San Francisco: Balkema. pp. 187-192.



Photograph courtesy of the Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey

Note: This is a contribution of the Singapore **Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey** conducted by the National University of Singapore's Tropical Marine Science Institute and the National Parks Board.

Contributor: Teresa **Tay**
Contact address: tmstayt@nus.edu.sg