

Black cardinalfish in the Singapore Strait

Subjects: Black cardinalfish, *Apogonichthyoides melas* (Teleostei: Apogonidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Pulau Satumu; 18 April 2014; around 2150 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Fringing coral reef, at depth of approximately 4 m.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: About three individuals, each around 8 cm in total length, were seen under coral ledges and in crevices. One of them is shown in the accompanying picture.

Remarks: The black cardinalfish is one of three species from the genus *Apogonichthyoides* recorded from Singapore. It is very similar in general appearance to the Timor cardinalfish (*Apogonichthyoides timorensis*), but can be distinguished by the white-margined round black blotch on the second dorsal fin. Although seldom seen, it has been recorded from estuarine habitats at Punggol, Seletar estuary and Marina Bay (before it was dammed); as well as from coral reefs off Pulau Hantu, Semakau and Labrador Beach (Ng & Lim, 2014: 1062).

Reference: Ng H. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2014. A preliminary checklist of the cardinalfishes (Actinopterygii: Gobiiformes: Apogonidae) of Singapore. *Check List*. 10 (5): 1061-1070.



Photograph by Jeffrey K. Y. Low

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