

New record of Celebes flathead in Singapore

Subjects: Celebes flathead, *Thysanophrys celebicus* (Teleostei: Platycephalidae).

Subjects identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, off western part of Semakau; 22 August 2015; evening.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, on silty sand substrate, at about 8 m depth.

Observer: Koh Kwan Siong.

Observation: Two examples, the larger of about 15 cm total length (at the upper part of the accompanying picture), were observed on the substrate.

Remarks: The Celebes flathead reaches a maximum known size of about 15 cm total length, and inhabits trawling grounds and the sandy fringes of coral reef, at depths of between 10 and 45 m. It has a broad dark bar below the spinous dorsal fin, a smaller wedge-shaped dark bar below the second dorsal fin, and a prominent dark bar beneath the eye. The species occurs in the Indo-west Pacific from East Africa eastwards through the East Indies to tropical Australia and the Solomon Islands, and then northwards to Taiwan (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 258; Knapp, 1999: 2419). Although expected in our area, this seems to be the first record of *Thysanophrys celebicus* in Singapore waters (see Fowler, 1938: 204-207).

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.
- Knapp, L. W., 1999. Platycephalidae. Flatheads. In: Carpenter, K. E. & V. H. Niem (eds.). *FAO Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes. The Living Marine Resources of the Western Central Pacific. Volume 4. Bony fishes part 2 (Mugilidae to Carangidae)*. FAO, Rome. pp. 2385-2421.



Photograph by Koh Kwan Siong

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