

New record of ringed pipefish in Singapore

Subject: Ringed pipefish, *Dunckerocampus dactyliophorus* (Teleostei: Syngnathiformes: Syngnathidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Keppel Bay Marina; 19 June 2015; afternoon.

Habitat: Marine. Along the side of a floating pontoon, among marine fouling organisms such as gorgonians and hydroids, at depth of under 1 m.

Observer: Toh Yuet Hsin.

Observation: An example of about 15 cm total length was observed close to the substrate among gorgonians and hydroids.

Remarks: This appears to be the first record of *Dunckerocampus dactyliophorus* in Singapore waters (Fowler, 1938; Herre & Myers, 1937; Palmer, 1954). It is easily recognisable by the alternating dark brown and white bands throughout its body, and the white-margined red caudal fin with a central yellow or white spot is diagnostic. The species attains a total length of 18 cm and occurs alone, in pairs, or in small groups in caves or under ledges on coral reefs in the East Indian region to the Marshall and Society Islands and along tropical Australia, northwards to the Ryukyu Islands of Japan (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 194)

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.
- Palmer, G., 1954. Notes on a collection of syngnathid fishes from Malaya. *Bulletin of the Raffles Museum, Singapore*. 25: 27-30.



Ringed pipefish at Keppel Bay Marina among gorgonians and hydroids, with snout pointing to the right. Note diagnostic colour pattern on its caudal fin. Photograph by Toh Yuet Hsin

Contributors: **Toh** Yuet Hsin & **Koh** Kwan Siong

Contact address: marineastic@gmail.com (Koh)