

Gold-lined sweetlips in the Singapore Strait

Subjects: Gold-lined sweetlips, *Plectorhincus chrysotaenia* (Teleostei: Haemulidae).

Subjects identified by: Jeffrey K. Y. Low.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait -

- 1) off Pulau Jong; 21 December 2012; 1430 hrs;
- 2) off Sisters' Islands; 31 January 2015; around 1600 hrs;
- 3) off Pulau Hantu on 1 May 2015; around 1428 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Fringing coral reefs.

Observers: Jeffrey Low & Koh Kwan Siong.

Observations: Three separate encounters of individuals between 30 and 40 cm total length are as follows -

- 1) One example off Pulau Jong (Fig. 1).
- 2) A school of eight off Sisters' Islands (Fig. 2).
- 3) A group of more than ten individuals was observed around a boat wreck off Pulau Hantu. Fig. 3 shows one of them near the substrate alongside Waigeu sea-perch (*Psammoperca waigiensis*, Latidae) and coral trout (*Plectropomus maculatus*, Serranidae) at around 8-9 m depth.

Remarks: The gold-lined sweetlips moves about alone or in groups, and is distributed in shallow coastal waters of the tropical western Pacific from Malaysia and western Indonesia to north-eastern Australia, and north to the Ryukyu Islands of Japan (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 473). In Singapore, it has been recorded from estuarine localities in the eastern Johor Strait (Ng et al., 2015: 325), as well as from coral reefs around the Semakau Landfill in the Singapore Strait (Ng, 2012: 129).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume II*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. pp. 425-856.
- Ng H. H., H. H. Tan, K. K. P. Lim, W. B. Ludt & P. Chakrabarty, 2015. Fishes of the eastern Johor Strait. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. Supplement No. 31: 303-337.
- Ng, M. F. C., 2012. *Habitats in Harmony: The Story of Semakau Landfill*. 2nd edition. National Environment Agency, Singapore. 159 pp.



Fig. 1. Example off Pulau Jong on 21 December 2012. Photograph by Jeffrey K. Y. Low



Fig. 2. School of eight individuals at Sisters' Islands on 31 January 2015. Photograph by Jeffrey K. Y. Low



Fig.3. Solitary example at a boat wreck off Pulau Hantu on 1 May 2015, with a Waigieu sea-perch (*Psammoperca waigiensis*) behind it. Photograph by Koh Kwan Siong

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