

Saddled shrimp-goby *At Sentosa*

Subject: Saddled shrimp-goby, *Cryptocentrus maudae* (Teleostei: Gobiidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Sentosa Island, Tanjong Rimau; 24 July 2016; 0900-0930 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, intertidal zone.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: An example of about 10 cm total length was found swimming about in the open at low tide (Figs. 1 & 2).

Remarks: The saddled shrimp-goby has cryptic colour pattern that makes it difficult to spot by divers (Larson & Lim, 2005: 86). It occurs in the tropical seas of the Indo-west Pacific from Sri Lanka, across Indonesia and the Philippines, to north-eastern Australia and Palau (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 873).

This species is supposed to inhabit burrows excavated by alpheid shrimps (Larson & Lim, 2005: 86). It is not known why the observed example was in an exposed situation. The attached pictures (Figs. 1 & 2) show that it has a raw patch on the dorsum on the right side of the first dorsal fin, which suggests that the fish could have been wounded. The goby may have recently escaped from an attack, possibly from a predator.

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume III*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. pp. 857-1292.
Larson, H. K. & K. K. P. Lim, 2005. *A Guide to Gobies of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre. 164 pp.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the fish.



Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of the fish. Note the raw patch on the back.

Photographs by Marcus F. C. Ng

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