

New record of flower urchin *Toxopnesustes pileolus* in Singapore

Subjects: Flower urchin, *Toxopnesustes pileolus* (Echinodermata: Camarodonta: Toxopneustidae).

Subjects identified by: David Lane.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, off Pulau Hantu; 9 October 2016; around 1030hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Among coral rubble at depth of about 7 and 8 m.

Observer: Wayne Thean Kang Wei.

Observation: Three examples were observed near each other among coral rubble on the seabed. The largest one was about 100 mm in diameter and two smaller ones were about 60 mm in diameter. The attached photographs show the spines and flower-like pedicellaria on the dorsal surface of one of the animals.

Remarks: *Toxopneustes pileolus* is not mentioned by Lane (2003) and is likely to be a new record for Singapore waters (David Lane, personal communication). According to Gosliner et al. (1996), this species is common in shallow sandy and rubble habitats where it partially buries in the substrate. It is known to be extremely venomous and its sting, administered by the pedicellaria found all over the animal's surface, has caused human fatalities.

References:

- Lane, D. J. W., 2003. *A Guide to Sea Stars and other Echinoderms of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre. 187 pp.
- Gosliner, T. M., D. W. Behrens & G. C. Williams, 1996. *Coral Reef Animals of the Indo-Pacific*. Sea Challenges, Monterey, California, USA. vi + 314 pp.



Photographs by Wayne Thean Kang Wei

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