

Polychaetes in the diet of the Commerson's sole

Subjects: Commerson's sole, *Dagetichthys commersonii* (Teleostei: Pleuronectiformes: Soleidae);
Polychaete worm, unidentified species (Annelida: Polychaeta: Capitellidae).

Subjects identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim (fish) & Lee Yen-Ling (polychaetes).

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Changi Beach, near car park 7; 15 November 2016; around 1750 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine, sandy shore at intertidal zone exposed during evening low tide.

Observer: Contributors.

Observation: A sole (Fig. 1) obtained from the soft sandy substrate during an incoming tide regurgitated two long polychaete worms (Fig. 2). The fish, of 197 mm SL (standard length: from snout tip to base of caudal fin), is kept as a voucher specimen in the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore, where it has been catalogued as ZRC 55551.

Remarks: The Commerson's sole occurs in Singapore waters, and has been recorded from the eastern Johor Strait (Ng et al., 2015). It is known to feed mainly on invertebrates, especially crustaceans (Munroe, 2001 as *Synaptura commersonii*). That polychaetes form a part of its diet is not surprising as the fish is a bottom dweller. Previously, an example of 245 mm SL (ZRC 53530), collected from the same area in July 2012 was preserved with a polychaete worm half-regurgitated from its mouth (Fig. 3).



Fig. 1. *Dagetichthys commersonii* (ZRC 55551) eyed (top) and blind sides. Photographs by Tan Heok Hui

References:

- Munroe, T. A., 2001. Soleidae. 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 6. Bony fishes part 4 (Labridae to Latimeriidae), estuarine crocodiles, sea turtles, sea snakes and marine mammals*. FAO, Rome. p. 3878-3889.
- Ng H. H., H. H. Tan, K. K. P. Lim, W. B. Ludt & P. Chakrabarty, 2015. Fishes of the eastern Johor Straits. *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. Supplement 31: 303-337.



Fig. 2. The two polychaete worms (Capitellidae) regurgitated by the sole.



Fig. 3. Eyed side of *Dagetichthys commersonii*, (ZRC 53530) preserved with polychaete worm half-regurgitated from its mouth.

Photographs by Tan Heok Hui

Contributors: **Tan Heok Hui** & Jeremy **Yeo Wei Liang**
Contact address: nhmthh@nus.edu.sg (Tan)