

Singapore records of the crescent oyster blenny, *Omobranchus smithi*

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Subjects: Crescent oyster blenny, *Omobranchus smithi* (Teleostei: Blenniidae).

Subjects identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim and Victor G. Springer.

Locations, date and time: Singapore Island, Mandai mangroves and Sungei Pandan; 9 September 1986 and 2 April 1987.

Habitat: Estuarine. Mangrove.

Observer: [Collected by] D. H. Murphy.

Observations: Two lots of preserved specimens from Singapore were examined at the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore.

1) ZRC 37607 contains two specimens of 26.0 and 39.0 mm standard length (tip of snout to base of caudal fin) collected on 9 September 1986 from Mandai mangroves.

2) ZRC 37434 consists of one specimen of 47.8 mm standard length (illustrated in the accompanying picture) collected on 2 April 1987 from within a piece of timber in the mangrove area of Sungei Pandan.



Photograph by Kelvin K. P. Lim

Remarks: The presence of this species in Singapore was first mentioned by Kottelat & Whitten (1996: 5 as *Omobranchus meniscus*). *Omobranchus meniscus*, described by Springer & Gomon (1975: 52) from Chantabun, Thailand, is a junior synonym of *Omobranchus smithi* (see Springer, 1981: 703). *Omobranchus smithi* is readily distinguished from its congeners by the black crescent-shaped mark extending dorsally from the posterior margin of the eye (Springer & Gomon, 1975: 52 as *Omobranchus meniscus*). The species was described from the Godavari Estuary in India, and has been recorded in Vietnam at Nha Trang Bay (Williams, 2014). Although very poorly known, it should be expected to occur along the mangrove coasts in between the known localities. The apparent rarity of this fish could be linked to its supposed preference for deep crevices. The specimen from Sungei Pandan was obtained from within a piece of timber.

References:

- Kottelat, M. & A. J. Whitten, 1996. *Freshwater Fishes of Western Indonesia and Sulawesi: additions and corrections*. Periplus editions. 8 pp.
- Springer, V. G., 1981. Notes on blennioid fishes of the tribe Omobranchini, with descriptions of two new species. *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*. 94 (3): 699-707.
- Springer, V. G. & M. F. Gomon, 1975. Revision of the blennioid fish genus *Omobranchus* with descriptions of three new species and notes on other species of the tribe Omobranchini. *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology*. 177: 1-135.
- Williams, J. T., 2014. *Omobranchus smithi*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2014: e.T48342284A48353451. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2014-3.RLTS.T48342284A48353451.en>. Accessed on 10 October 2017.