

New record of moustache conger, *Conger cinereus*, in Singapore

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Subject: Moustache conger, *Conger cinereus* (Teleostei: Anguilliformes: Congridae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, off western Pulau Hantu; 1 May 2015; around 1400-1440 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Near boat wreck in an open silty area, in the vicinity of a coral reef, at about 9 m depth.

Observer: Koh Kwan Siong.

Observation: An example of about 1 m total length was observed on the substrate. The accompanying photograph shows the dorsal aspect of the subject with its snout facing the bottom margin of the picture.



Photograph by Koh Kwan Siong

Remarks: Despite the quality of the attached image being compromised by suspended sediments, the eel's broad snout, dark dorsal colouration, relatively stout and cylindrical body, presence of pectoral fins and broad dorsal fin that is continuous with the caudal and anal fins strongly suggest *Conger cinereus*. This usually nocturnal species grows to 1.4 m in total length, and is found on coral reefs throughout the Indo-west Pacific, from the Red Sea and East Africa across the East Indies, to the Hawaiian Islands and Easter Island, and between tropical Australia and Japan (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 113). Although not unexpected, this seems to be the first record of this species from Singapore waters. The only other member of the family Congridae recorded from Singapore waters is the smaller and grey-coloured bigeye conger, *Ariosoma anagoides* (Fowler, 1938: 38 as *Ariosoma anago*; see Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 112).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume I*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. xiii + 424 pp.
- Fowler, H. W., 1938. A list of the fishes known from Malaya. *Fisheries Bulletin*. 1: 1-268.