

Singapore tuskfish at Cyrene Reef

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Subject: Singapore tuskfish, *Choerodon oligacanthus* (Teleostei: Labridae).

Subject identified by: Jake Adams.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Cyrene Reef; 12 August 2017; 0930 hrs.

Habitat: Coral reef. On reef flat with seagrass and sand substrate at low tide.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: A large example of around 30 cm total length was encountered in shallow water (around 10 cm depth) during low tide.



Dorso-lateral view of Singapore tuskfish. Photograph by Marcus F. C. Ng

Remarks: Recorded in Singapore since 1852 (see Fowler, 1938: 191), *Choerodon oligacanthus* is among three species of tuskfishes known from Singapore waters. The other two are *Choerodon anchorago*, the anchor tuskfish, and *Choerodon schoenleinii*, the blackspot tuskfish (Fowler, 1938: 191-192). The Singapore tuskfish is distinguished from its two local congeners by its colour pattern which consists of bluish stripes on the lower sides of its body and the absence of a black spot on the middle of its dorsal fin. It occurs singly or in pairs over sand-rubble substrates next to coastal reefs in Indonesia (east Sumatra, Kalimantan and Sulawesi), Malaysia and the Philippines (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 647).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume II*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. p. 425-856.
- Fowler, H. W., 1938. A list of the fishes known from Malaya. *Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore*. 1: 1-268.