

Javan flounder at Tuas

Subject: Javan flounder, *Pseudorhombus javanicus* (Teleostei: Pleuronectiformes: Paralichthyidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Tuas; 30 April 2017; morning.

Habitat: Intertidal shore with silty sand substrate. In water of about 30 cm depth, at low tide.

Observers: Lee Bee Yan & Tan Siong Kiat.

Observations: The fish shown in the accompanying picture was flushed out of the substrate by the observers who were wading in the shallow water, and who had probably stepped too close to it. The 155 mm standard length (measured from tip of snout to base of caudal fin) specimen was subsequently caught by handnet.

Remarks: This is one of five species of the flatfish genus *Pseudorhombus* recorded from Singapore waters. The others are *Pseudorhombus arsius*, *P. malayanus* and *P. neglectus* (Fowler, 1938: 80-81), with *P. elevatus* recently recorded from the eastern Johor Strait (Ng et al., 2015: 320). The Javan flounder is distinguished from its congeners in the area in being comparatively more slender, and without a notch in front of the eyes along the rounded upper profile of the head (Amaoka & Hensley, 2001: 3852).

References:

- Amaoka, K. & D. A. Hensley, 2001. Paralichthyidae. Sand flounders. 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. pp. 3842-3862.
- Fowler, H. W., 1938. A list of the fishes known from Malaya. *Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore*. 1: 1-268.
- Ng H. H., H. H. Tan, K. K. P. Lim, W. B. Ludt & P. Chakrabarty, 2015. Fishes of the eastern Johor Strait. *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. Supplement No. 31: 303-337.



Eyed side of *Pseudorhombus javanicus*, 155 mm standard length. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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