

Longfin grouper in Sisters Islands Marine Park

Subject: Longfin grouper, *Epinephelus quoyanus* (Teleostei: Serranidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Sisters Islands Marine Park, off Pulau Subar Laut; 21 May 2017; 1226 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, at depth of about 16 m.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: One example of about 30 cm total length was found partially hidden in a crevice (see accompanying picture).

Remarks: The longfin grouper is characterised by large, close-set, hexagonal to roundish, blackish, dark brown or reddish spots covering its head and body. It is widespread throughout the Indo-Malayan region from the Andaman Islands eastwards to Australia, Japan and Korea (Craig et al., 2011: 217). It has been recorded in Singapore as *Serranus megachir* (see Fowler, 1938: 141).

References:

Craig, M. T., Y. J. Sadovy de Mitcheson & P. C. Heemstra, 2011. *Groupers of the World. A Field and Market Guide*. NISC (Pty) Ltd, Grahamstown, South Africa. xix + 356 pp.

Fowler, H. W., 1938. A list of the fishes known from Malaya. *Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore*. 1: 1-268.



Dorso-lateral view of the head and anterior body of the longfin grouper, partially concealed behind hydroids. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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