

The Terengganu yellow croaker in Singapore

Kelvin K. P. Lim & Tan Heok Hui

nhmlimkp@nus.edu.sg (Lim)

Subjects: Terengganu yellow croaker, *Pseudolarimichthys terengganui* (Teleostei: Sciaenidae).

Subjects identified by: Authors and Seah Ying Giat.

Location, date and time: Two records from the Singapore side of the eastern Johor Strait, from 2004 and 2012.

Habitat: Estuarine.

Observers/collectors: Tan Heok Hui and the Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey (CMBS) team.

Observations:

1. Two examples of 25.2 & 28.7 cm SL (standard length - from snout tip to base of caudal fin) obtained by gill nets set off the western end of Pulau Ubin near the Outward Bound School [HDB-Ubin-181] by fisherfolk in the area on 27 July 2004. Preserved as ZRC 49850 in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore. A lateral view of the smaller specimen is shown in Fig. 1.

2. One example [JS-1708] of about 25 cm TL (total length - from snout tip to tip of caudal fin) obtained by epibenthic sled along the coast at about 100 m from Changi Beach [locality code: DW 118] by the CMBS team on 29 October 2012. A lateral view of this specimen is shown in Fig. 2.

Remarks: *Pseudolarimichthys terengganui* was previously and erroneously identified as *Larimichthys crocea*. Its presence in Singapore was mistakenly assumed to have originated from escapees from floating fish farms (see Jaafar et al., 2012: 81; Ng et al., 2015: 327; as *Larimichthys crocea*). However, the real *Larimichthys crocea* is regularly available in Singapore markets as food fish in local markets, but apparently only as freshly dead stocks believed to be imported from southern China. One such example is illustrated in Fig. 3. Note that it is morphologically distinct from *Pseudolarimichthys* in its distinctly shorter snout (snout length less than eye diameter), and more slender caudal peduncle (caudal peduncle length three times or more of its depth) (Seah et al., 2015: 279). It is of interest to note that there appears to be no old records of these yellow sciaenids in the Malayan region (see Fowler, 1938).

Originally described in the genus *Larimichthys*, but on the basis of its significantly different swimbladder morphology and by deep genetic differences, *Larimichthys terengganui* was selected to be the type species of the genus *Pseudolarimichthys* recently erected by Lo et al. (2017). *Pseudolarimichthys terengganui* is thus far known only from the South China Sea off the Malaysian state of Terengganu (Seah et al., 2015: 276). The present records constitute a southward range extension, and the first recognition of its presence in Singapore waters to which it is presumed to be native.

References:

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Fig. 1. *Pseudolarimichthys terengganui* (ZRC 49850) of 25.2 cm SL. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui



Fig. 2. *Pseudolarimichthys terengganui* (JS 1708) of around 25 cm TL. Photograph by CMBS



Fig. 3. *Larimichthys crocea* (ZRC 56926) of 24.0 cm SL, purchased in a market in Singapore in January 2018. Note its distinctly shorter snout and more slender caudal peduncle when compared to the specimens in Fig. 1 and 2. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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