

Singapore record of largescale flounder, *Engyprosopon grandisquama*

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Subject: Largescale flounder, *Engyprosopon grandisquama* (Teleostei: Pleuronectiformes: Bothidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait at Eastern Holding B Anchorage, from 1°14.924'N 103°53.730'E to 1°14.808'N 103°53.528'E; 17 May 2013; 1236-1246 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Combination of rocky, silty and muddy substrates at depths of 24.4 to 25.4 m.

Collectors: Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey trawl team comprising Bertrand Richer de Forges, Lim Swee Cheng, Chim Chee Kong and others.

Observation: An example of 57.6 mm standard length (tip of snout to base of caudal fin) was obtained by beam trawl from the sea floor. The specimen is catalogued as ZRC 57004 in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore. The accompanying photograph illustrates a lateral view of the eyed side of the specimen.

Remarks: According to Hensley & Amaoka (2001: 3823), *Engyprosopon grandisquama* has a deep body, eyes on left side of the body, large scales, and caudal fin separate from the dorsal and anal fins. It has a distinctive pair of blackish blotches on the caudal fin, each blotch between the second and fifth rays from the dorsal and ventral margins of the caudal fin (see accompanying picture). Its head is small with a slight concavity in front of the upper margin of the lower eye. The featured example is half-grown for it is known to attain a maximum standard length of about 10 cm. The eyes also grow further apart in larger specimens, more so in adult males. The fish inhabits mud and sand bottoms at depths of between 10 and 100 m, feeding on small benthic animals. It is commonly sold as food in the markets of Indonesia and the Philippines.

Although it is widely distributed from East Africa throughout the Indian Ocean and the Indo-Australian Archipelago to Australia and New Caledonia to the east, and northwards to southern Japan (Hensley & Amaoka, 2001: 3823), this seems to be the first record of *Engyprosopon grandisquama* from Singapore waters. The mogki flounder (*Engyprosopon mogkii*) was the only congener known from Singapore (see Fowler, 1938: 80).



Photograph by Kelvin K. P. Lim

References:

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

Hensley, D. A. & K. Amaoka, 2001. Bothidae. 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. 3799-3841.

Note: This a contribution of the **Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey** conducted by the National University of Singapore (Tropical Marine Science Institute and Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum) and the National Parks Board.