

A bronze croaker in the eastern Johor Strait

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Subject: Bronze croaker, *Otolithoides biauritus* (Teleostei: Sciaenidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Johor Strait, off Punggol; 11 June 2004, 1550 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine

Observer: Tan Heok Hui, Kelvin K. P. Lim and others.

Observation: A large example of about one metre total length and weighing 7 kg, was obtained by hook and line in the eastern Johor Strait off Punggol, and landed at a kelong off Yishun where it was photographed (see accompanying picture showing the lateral aspect of the specimen).



Photograph by Kelvin K. P. Lim

Remarks: The bronze croaker has been recorded from Singapore since 1849 as *Otolithus biauritus* (Cantor, 1849: 1039; Bleeker, 1852: 56), and later as *Otolithoides biauritus* (Ng et al., 2015: 328). It has a slender and cylindrical body, small eyes, pointed caudal fin, and its first and second dorsal fins are not separated by a deep notch. The species is known to attain a maximum size of 1.6 m standard length (from tip of snout to base of caudal fin), but is usually seen at around 1 m standard length. It inhabits coastal and inshore waters from India to the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo and Vietnam (Sasaki, 2001: 3165). This large and esteemed food fish is usually caught by trawls, and is available throughout the year (Tan et al., 1996: 28).

References:

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