

Rediscovery of the lined dragonet in Singapore

Toh Chay Hoon & Kelvin K. P. Lim

nhmtohc@nus.edu.sg (Toh), nhmlimkp@nus.edu.sg (Lim)

Subject: Lined dragonet, *Synchiropus lineolatus* (Teleostei: Callionymidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, off western part of Pulau Hantu; 13 May 2018; around 1900 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, at around 10 m depth.

Observer: Toh Chay Hoon.

Observation: An example of about 6 cm total length was observed on the substrate during an evening dive. A dorso-lateral view of the individual is shown in the accompanying photograph.

Remarks: Two examples of the lined dragonet were obtained at a reef in Singapore in the 1930s (Herre, 1940: 51, misidentified as *Synchiropus ocellatus*; Fricke, 1983: 615 as *Synchiropus* (*Synchiropus*) *lineolatus*). Since then, there appears to be no record of this species in Singapore waters until the present observation (Ng, 2012: 35). The lined dragonet may be distinguished from other dragonets in Singapore waters by the following combined morphological features: snout shorter than eye diameter, all dorsal fin rays branched, gill openings lateral in position, first pelvic fin ray not elongate and not separate from the rest of the pelvic fin (see Ng, 2012: 35). The colour pattern is also distinctive, with a whitish rectangular blotch on the nape in front of the dorsal fin, a narrow whitish band across the head behind the eyes, a broad whitish saddle over the anterior part of the caudal peduncle, and two brownish bars on the pale caudal fin (compare with Fig. 14 in Ng, 2012: 38).



Photograph by Toh Chay Hoon

References:

- Fricke, R., 1983. Revision of the Indo-Pacific genera and species of the dragonet family Callionymidae (Teleostei). *Theses Zoologicae*. 3: x + 774 pp., 212 figs., 29 tabs.
- Herre, A. W. C. T., 1940. Additions to the fish fauna of Malaya and notes on rare or little known Malayan and Bornean fishes. *Bulletin of the Raffles Museum, Singapore*. 16: 27-55.
- Ng H. H., 2012. The dragonets of Singapore (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Callionymidae). *Nature in Singapore*. 5: 27-38.