

Ringed pipefish in the Singapore Strait

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Subject: Ringed pipefish, *Dunckerocampus dactyliophorus* (Teleostei: Syngnathiformes: Syngnathidae).

Subject identified by: Daisuke Taira.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Lazarus Island, seawall near Pulau Seringat Ferry Terminal; 21 December 2015; 1411 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Seawall, at about 3 m depth.

Observer: Daisuke Taira.

Observation: One example of about 8 cm total length was observed at the subtidal zone of the sloping seawall. This individual was swimming in the crevices among granite boulders densely covered with algal turfs. The accompanying picture shows a lateral view of the pipefish with its head pointing to the upper right, and rear end curled upwards.



Photograph by Daisuke Taira

Remarks: The ringed pipefish is first recorded from Singapore waters by Toh & Koh (2015) based on an example photographed at Keppel Bay Marina in June 2015. The species is widespread in the tropical Western Pacific where it occurs in shallow waters to a depth of about 10 m. It is often seen in large caves with shrimps or moray eels and engage in cleaning activities, probably picking small copepods or other parasitic crustacea from other fishes (Kuitert, 2009: 180).

References:

- Kuitert, R., 2009. *Seahorses and their Relatives*. Aquatic Photographics, Seaford, Australia. 334 pp.
Toh Y. H. & K. S. Koh, 2015. New record of ringed pipefish in Singapore. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2015: 211.

Note: This sighting was recorded as part of the project “Enhancing Singapore’s Coral Reef Ecosystem in a Green Port” funded by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (WBS: R 347-001-215-490).