

Staghorn damselfish in the Singapore Strait

Jeffrey K. Y. Low

jeffrey_low@nparks.gov.sg / cat64fish@yahoo.com

Subject: Staghorn damselfish, *Amblyglyphidodon curacao* (Teleostei: Pomacentridae).

Subject identified by: Jeffrey K. Y. Low.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Pulau Satumu; 27 April 2016; at around 1830 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Fringing coral reef with silty substrate, at about 4 m depth.

Observer: Jeffrey K. Y. Low.

Observation: One individual of about 10 cm total length was observed swimming among corals. Its side view is shown in the accompanying picture.



Photograph by Jeffrey K. Y. Low

Remarks: *Amblypharyngodon curacao* was not listed by Fowler (1938) from the Malay Peninsula, and seems to have been first recorded in Singapore by Khoo & Tay (1990: 75). This damselfish is recognised by its relatively deep body which is greenish to yellowish with three broad grey bars on the sides. It inhabits coral reef to a depth of about 15 m, and is usually found among staghorn corals of the genus *Acropora*. The species occurs from the eastern Indian Ocean, across Indonesia and tropical Australia, to Samoa and the Marshall Islands, and northwards to the Ryukyu Islands (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 567).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume II*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. pp. 425-856.
- Fowler, H. W., 1938. A list of the fishes known from Malaya. *Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore*. 1: 1-268, 296-268 (supplement); index: i-lvi.
- Khoo H. W. & S. W. Tay, 1990. Coral reef fishes of Singapore. In: Chou L. M. & P. K. L. Ng (eds.). *Essays in Zoology*. Department of Zoology, National University of Singapore. p. 61-82.