A Singapore record of the raccoon butterflyfish, *Chaetodon lunula*

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**Subject:** Raccoon butterflyfish, *Chaetodon lunula* (Teleostei: Chaetodontidae).

**Subject identified by:** Jeffrey K. Y. Low.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Strait off Sisters Islands; 16 April 2018; at around 1400 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Coral reef, at around 6 m depth.

**Observer:** Jeffrey K. Y. Low.

**Observation:** One example of about 15 cm was photographed on the eastern side of the fringing coral reef of the islands. The accompanying picture shows a dorso-lateral view of the fish with its head facing left.

**Remarks:** Herre (1940: 48) cites a 17.5 cm (standard length) example of ‘*Chaetodon fasciatus*’ having been ‘taken at Singapore’. It is likely that the fish is *Chaetodon lunula* as *Chaetodon fasciatus*, although very similar in appearance, is restricted to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (Allen et al., 1998: 141-142).

The featured individual may be the second known record of the raccoon butterflyfish in Singapore. The occurrence of the species there can be expected as it is widely distributed throughout the Indo-Pacific from East Africa, through Indonesia, to the Hawaiian Islands (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 524). However, the apparent rarity of this species in Singapore waters suggests that the type of coral reef in the area may not be its preferred habitat, or the featured example could even be a released aquarium pet imported from elsewhere.

**References:**


**Note:** This sighting was recorded as part of International Year of the Reef 2018 Marine Bioblitz programme.