
Subject identified by: Adib Adris.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, off Kusu Island; 25 July 2020; around 1300 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, from a depth of about 3 m.

Observers: Adib Adris and Vincent Ting.

Observation: An example of about 7 cm total length was caught on hook baited with fresh prawn meat during cloudy weather. It was photographed while temporarily held in a plastic receptacle (see accompanying picture) before release.

Remarks: The peacock grouper grows to a maximum size of 60 cm total length, and is widely distributed throughout the Indo-west Pacific from the Red Sea and East Africa eastwards throughout Indonesia to Micronesia and French Polynesia (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 260). It is recorded in Singapore waters (Bleeker, 1859-60: 448 as *Serranus myriaster*), but seems to be uncommon. The colour pattern of adult fish resembles *Cephalopholis cyanostigma* (blue-spotted grouper) and *Cephalopholis miniata* (red coral grouper), both also recorded from Singapore (Tweedie, 1940: 80 as *Epinephelus cyanostigma*; Heemstra & Randall, 1993: 49). However, their juveniles of similar size as the featured example have different colour patterns. *Cephalopholis cyanostigma* is uniformly grey or brown with yellow fins, and *Cephalopholis miniata* is yellow with considerably fewer and scattered blue spots (see Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 260, 262-263).

References: