Brassy chub in the Singapore Strait

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Subjects identified by: Andrew Bauman and Zeehan Jaafar.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Kusu Island and Pulau Satumu; both localities in August 2015, between 0900 and 1300 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, at upper reef slope.

Observers: Andrew Bauman, Andrew Hoey and Jeffrey K. Y. Low.

Observation: Several examples (at least three at each location) of around 30-35 cm total length, were observed and videographed at shallow upper reef slopes off Pulau Satumu and Kusu Island (see accompanying picture of record from off Kusu Island). Individuals were grazing on experimental *Sargassum ilicifolium* assays, the latter a part of an experimental set-up to quantify the rates of macroalgal removal and bite rates on these reefs.

Remarks: The brassy chub is widely distributed throughout the tropical waters of the Indo-Pacific, specifically from East Africa and the Red Sea eastwards to Polynesia and the Hawaiian Islands (Sakai & Nakabo 1995). This herbivorous species typically forms aggregations, and grazes on benthic macroalgae (Clements & Choat 1997). *Kyphosus vaigiensis* is reported to occur in shallow coastal, and offshore, reefs, to depths of 25 m (Allen and Erdmann 2012).

These records confirm the occurrence of *Kyphosus vaigiensis* in Singapore water. This species has already been recorded much earlier from there as its junior synonym *Pimelepterus lembus* by Bleeker (1859-60) and Károli (1882), but not reported since.

References:


