

Erdmann's wrasse off Lazarus Island

Adib Adris

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Subject: Erdmann's wrasse, *Halichoeres erdmanni* (Teleostei: Labridae).

Subject identified by: Adib Adris & Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Lazarus Island; 16 September 2019; around 1300 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef at around 4 m depth.

Observer: Adib Adris.

Observation: An example of about 6 cm total length (see accompanying picture) was caught near a sea-wall along the reef. It was landed by line with a sinker, on a small hook baited with a cube of prawn meat. The sky was clear but the water was quite turbid. The featured specimen was released immediately after photography.

Remarks: *Halichoeres erdmanni* was described in 2010 based on specimens collected from West Papua, Indonesia. However, its presence in Singapore was already known from underwater photographs of living individuals taken earlier there by John Randall (Randall & Allen, 2010: 284, fig. 5) and Rudie Kuiter (2002: 115 as *Halichoeres javanicus*). It can be distinguished from other wrasses in Singapore waters by its colour pattern (see Randall & Allen, 2010: 283-284; Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 672).

References:

Allen GR & Erdmann MV (2012) Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. xiii + 1-424 (Vol. 1), 425-856 (Vol. 2), 857-1292 (Vol. 3).

Kuiter RH (2002) Fairy & Rainbow Wrasses and their Relatives – A Comprehensive Guide to Selected Labroids. TMC Publishing, United Kingdom. 208 pp.

Randall JE & Allen GR (2010) Two new labrid fishes of the genus *Halichoeres* from the East Indies. The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology, 58 (2): 281-289.



Lateral view of the Erdmann's wrasse landed off Lazarus Island. Photograph by Adib Adris