

Biodiversity Record: Sighting of a humbug dascyllus, *Dascyllus aruanus*, off Pulau Hantu

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Subject: Humbug dascyllus, *Dascyllus aruanus* (Teleostei: Pomacentridae).

Subject identified by: Daisuke Taira.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, off western Pulau Hantu Besar, 7 January 2021, around 1530 hrs.

Habitat: Coral reef. On the reef flat, at a depth of about 2 m.

Observers: Daisuke Taira, Hannah H. J. Yeo and Tiffany Goh.

Observation: One adult example of about 5 cm total length was observed darting among branching *Montipora* corals in fairly turbid water (see accompanying pictures).



Fronto-lateral views of a *Dascyllus aruanus* in-situ off Pulau Hantu. (Photographs by: Daisuke Taira).

Remarks: Previously, *Dascyllus aruanus* has been documented once in Singapore waters (Sin et al., 1994: 54). The humbug dascyllus lives in groups among branching corals in reefs and lagoons (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 596). The presence of a lone individual in the present observation suggests that the species does not prefer the silty reefs in Singapore, and that it may have strayed from neighbouring areas. However, as this is a common ornamental fish (Michael, 2008: 114; personal observation), the subject could also be an abandoned aquarium pet that was imported from elsewhere. Its local status is similar to that of the goldtail damselfish (*Chrysiptera parasema*), one of which was reported from the same general area in September last year (Taira, 2020).

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