

## Biodiversity Record: Freckled porcupinefish, *Diodon holocanthus*, in the Singapore Strait

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**Subject:** Freckled porcupinefish, *Diodon holocanthus* (Teleostei: Tetraodontiformes: Diodontidae).

**Subject identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Strait off Pulau Jong; 25 December 2020, ca. 1030 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Coral reef at about 9 m depth.

**Observer:** Toh Chay Hoon.

**Observation:** An example of about 12 cm total length, was swimming slowly among coral rubble (see accompanying picture).



Dorso-lateral view of freckled porcupinefish, in-situ. (Photograph by: Toh Chay Hoon).

**Remarks:** This species, apparently uncommon in Singapore, was also recently recorded in the estuarine shore at Changi (Adib, 2020). It is one of three species of *Diodon* to be found in Singapore, the other two being the black-blotched porcupinefish (*Diodon liturosus*) and the common porcupinefish (*Diodon hystrix*) (see Fowler, 1938: 239–240 as *Diodon holocanthus*; Lim & Low, 1998: 153). It can be distinguished from its congeners in having a pair of brown patches above the eyes (incorrectly printed as ‘ears’ in Adib, 2020).

### Literature cited:

Adib A (2020) A freckled porcupinefish at Changi. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2020: 117.

Fowler HW (1938) A list of the fishes known from Malaya. Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore, 1: 1–268.

Lim KKP & Low JKY (1998) A Guide to Common Marine Fishes of Singapore. Singapore Science Centre, Singapore, 163 pp.