

## Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the jellyfish, *Anomalorhiza shawi*

Iffah Iesa<sup>1\*</sup> & Ivan Goh<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore, Singapore 117377; Email: [nhmii@nus.edu.sg](mailto:nhmii@nus.edu.sg) (\*corresponding author)

<sup>2</sup>Marine Stewards Singapore Ltd, 33 Ubi Avenue 3, #03-51, Vertex (Tower A), Singapore 408868; Email: [hello@marinestewards.org](mailto:hello@marinestewards.org)

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**Subject:** *Anomalorhiza shawi* (Cnidaria: Scyphozoa: Rhizostomeae: Lychnorhizidae).

**Subject identified by:** Iffah Iesa.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Strait, off Semakau Landfill; 4 December 2020; 1130 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine, pelagic.

**Observer:** Ivan Goh.

**Observation:** A basketball-sized (approximately 75 cm) example was spotted at the water surface (Figs. 1, 2). The gelatinous individual seemed to be pulsating weakly. A mass of gonads can be seen through the top of the jellyfish's exumbrella (bell).

**Remarks:** *Anomalorhiza shawi* is herein presented as a new record for Singapore (see Iesa, 2019). However, its occurrence there should not be surprising as it has been reported from various parts of insular Southeast Asia, including Manila Bay in the Philippines (Light, 1921; Collins & Morandini, 2020), eastern Gulf of Thailand off south-west Rayong and north-east Chanthaburi (Panit et al., 2017), and Sabah in East Malaysia (Chuan et al., 2020).

From the accompanying video frames, the distinct branching of purple oral arm canals (Fig. 1) ending with rounded terminal clubs (Fig. 2) is discernible and recognised as a diagnostic character of *Anomalorhiza shawi*. However due to poor resolution of the video clip and absence of the physical specimen, features such as thread-like filamentous appendages on mouth arms and projections on top of exumbrella (Kitamura & Omori, 2010) cannot be clearly observed. Of *Anomalorhiza shawi*, little is known of its biology, life cycle and associations with other organisms. Due to its physically delicate existence, the species is hypothesised to be unlikely to withstand open ocean forces (see Cooke, 1984) and more likely to inhabit bays and estuaries (see Chuan et al., 2020).

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Fig. 1. *Anomalorhiza shawi* at the water surface. Arrow indicates dark canal visible through oral arm.



Fig. 2. *Anomalorhiza shawi* at the water surface. Arrow points to oral arm canal ending with rounded tip.

(Screengrabs from video recorded by Ivan Goh).