

Biodiversity Record: First Singapore record of the nudibranch, *Phestilla fuscostriata*

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Subject: *Phestilla fuscostriata* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Nudibranchia: Trinchetiidae).

Subject identified by: Nicholas Chew Ken Min.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Sisters Islands Marine Park, eastern reef of Small Sister Island; 20 January 2020; around 1200 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, at depth of about 5 m.

Observer: Nicholas Chew Ken Min

Observation: One example, about 8 mm in length, was observed living on a colony of the hard coral *Pavona decussata* (Fig. 1). A feeding trail was observed behind it on the host coral, and numerous crescent-shaped egg masses were also noted around the animal (Fig. 2).

Remarks: *Phestilla fuscostriata* resembles its specific host coral *Pavona decussata* in appearance and is, therefore, an exceptionally cryptic species. The species was only recently described based on specimens from Thailand, and is characterised by brown stripes on its body (Hu et al., 2020). The featured example appears to be the first record of *Phestilla fuscostriata* in Singapore.

Literature cited:

Hu J, Zhang Y, Xie JY & Qiu JW (2020) A new species of predatory nudibranch (Gastropoda: Trinchetiidae) of the coral *Pavona decussata*. Zoological Studies, 59: e30. DOI: 10.6620/ZS.2020.59-30



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of *Phestilla fuscostriata* with crescent-shaped masses of eggs behind it.

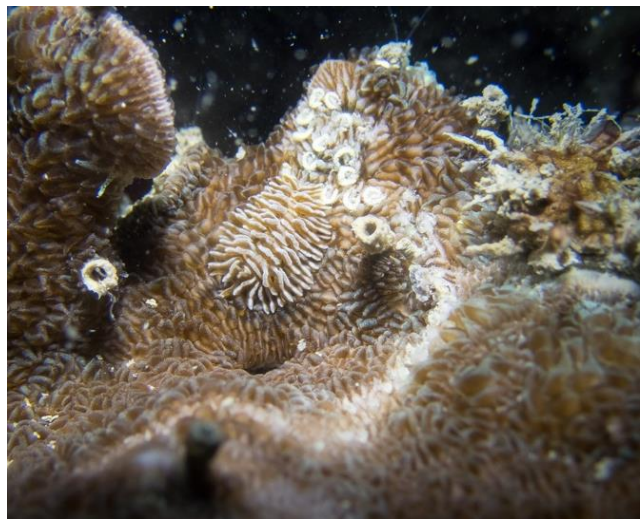


Fig. 2. Wide view of *Phestilla fuscostriata* on its host coral, a *Pavona decussata*.

(Photographs by: Nicholas Chew Ken Min).