

Biodiversity Record: New record of the blenny, *Laiphognathus multimaculatus*, in Singapore

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Subject: Multi-spotted blenny, *Laiphognathus multimaculatus* (Teleostei: Blenniiformes: Blenniidae).

Subject identified by: Daisuke Taira.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, reef off western side of Pulau Satumu; 3 March 2021; around 1239 hrs.

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

Observer: Crystle Wee.

Observation: One example of about 2 cm in total length was observed perching on the outer edge of a colony of plating hard coral (Fig. 1).

Remarks: *Laiphognathus multimaculatus* is a small (up to 4.5 cm in total length), slender and semi-transparent blenny with cirri on the rims of its anterior and posterior nostrils, and a body covered with small reddish spots. This solitary fish inhabits sheltered lagoons and shoreline reefs at depths of 2 to 8 m, and is widely distributed from East Africa eastwards through Indonesia to the Solomon Islands, and northwards to Taiwan (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 783). The featured observation represents the first record of the genus *Laiphognathus* in Singapore waters (see Wang & Lim, 2011: 244).

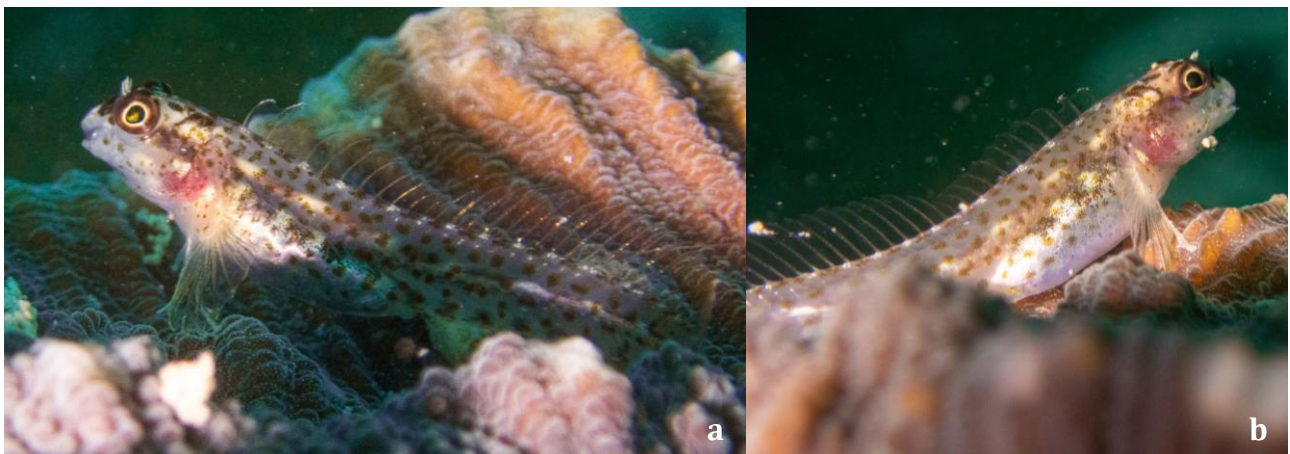


Fig. 1. In situ lateral views of the *Laiphognathus multimaculatus*. a, left side of the fish; b, right side of the fish. (Photographs by: Crystle Wee).

Literature cited:

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

Wang LK & Lim KKP (2011) Blennies family Blenniidae. In: Ng PKL, Corlett RT & Tan HTW (eds.) Singapore Biodiversity. An Encyclopedia of the Natural Environment and Sustainable Development. Editions Didier Millet in association with the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore, Singapore, p. 244.