

Biodiversity Record: Kuiters' dragonet at Pulau Hantu

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Subject: Kuiters' dragonet, *Dactylopus kuiteri* (Teleostei: Callionymidae).

Subject identified by: Tsu Soo Tan and Zeehan Jaafar.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, western reef off Pulau Hantu; 1 May 2021 at 1555 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Fringing reef with silty substrate. At a depth of about 10 m.

Observer: Tsu Soo Tan.

Observations: A solitary sub-adult individual of about 2 cm total length was observed resting on the substrate (Fig. 1).

Remarks: *Dactylopus kuiteri* was first recorded from Singapore based on specimens photographed at Pulau Hantu, Pulau Biola and Cyrene Reef between 2010 and 2014 (Lim et al., 2014). Although infrequently encountered, there appear to be more records of this species than its congener, *Dactylopus dactylopus* (the fingered dragonet), in Singapore waters (see Ng, 2012; Lim et al., 2014).

Literature cited:

Ng HH (2012) The dragonets of Singapore (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Callionymidae). Nature in Singapore, 5: 27–38.
Lim KKP, Neo ML, Ng D & Toh CH (2014) New record of Kuiters' dragonet from Singapore. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2014: 103–104.



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of sub-adult *Dactylopus kuiteri* in situ at 10 m depth. (Photograph by: Tsu Soo Tan).