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Biodiversity Record: Spotted sand-diver, *Trichonotus setiger*, off Sisters Islands

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Subjects: Spotted sand-diver, *Trichonotus setiger* (Teleostei: Trichonotidae).

Subjects identified by: Jeffrey K. Y. Low and Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Sisters Islands; 23 March 2021; 1500 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Demersal, on seabed, at around 12 m depth.

Observers: Jeffrey K. Y. Low and Nicholas K. M. Chew.

Observation: A group of up to 10 individuals, ranging from 5 to 10 cm in total length, was observed hovering over or resting on the sea floor (Fig. 1).

Remarks: The spotted sand-diver has been recorded at Changi on an estuarine intertidal sandflat (Tan & Nguang, 2017). The example shown here was in a much deeper, sub-tidal environment, and the image (Fig. 1) may be the first published picture of a spotted sand-diver alive in its natural environment in Singapore waters. Based on the filamentous ray on the first dorsal fin and the relatively long caudal fin, both features absent on the example from Changi shown in Tan & Nguang (2017), the featured example is presumed to be an adult male (see Allen & Erdmann, 2012).

Literature cited:

Allen GR & Erdmann MV (2012) Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume II. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia, pp. 425–856.

Tan HH & Nguang LHS (2017) Spotted sand-diver at Changi. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2017: 10.

Fig. 1. Lateral view of one of the spotted sand-divers, about 10 cm in total length, in situ on the sea floor. Note the long caudal fin and the thin, thread-like dorsal fin ray against the side of the anterior part of the body. (Photograph by: Jeffrey K. Y. Low).