

Biodiversity Record: Reticulated pufferfish at East Coast Park

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Subject: Reticulated pufferfish, *Arothron reticularis* (Teleostei: Tetraodontiformes: Tetraodontidae).

Subject identified by: Soon Keong Wee and Mark Boon Pho Chan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, East Coast Park; 21 September 2021; 2050 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Shallow water along sandy beach. In cloudy weather, at rising tide.

Observers: Soon Keong Wee and Mark Boon Pho Chan.

Observation: An example of about 25 cm total length was caught on rod and reel, with hook baited with fresh prawn meat. It was safely released after photography (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of the reticulated pufferfish. (Photograph by: Soon Keong Wee).

Remarks: The reticulated pufferfish is one of five species in the genus *Arothron* known to inhabit Singapore waters (see Toh & Lim, 2019). The species grows to 43 cm in total length, and is distributed in the Indo-West Pacific, from India to Australia and north to Taiwan, inhabiting estuaries and shallow coastal waters over sand or mud bottoms (Allen & Erdmann, 2012). It feeds on corals, molluscs and other sand-dwelling invertebrates, as well as seagrass and mangrove (Santhanam, 2018). Although believed to be poisonous, this species has been recorded being sold as food at a wet market in Singapore (Tan, 2018).

Literature cited:

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