

Biodiversity Record: Juvenile golden trevally at Bedok Jetty

Daniel Zhi Yi Choong^{1*}, Soon Keong Wee² & Mark Boon Pho Chan²

¹Taman Serasi, Singapore 257722; Email: dzy.choong@gmail.com (*corresponding author)

²Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 639798; Email: wees0021@e.ntu.edu.sg (Wee), mark0026@e.ntu.edu.sg (Chan)

Recommended citation. Choong DZY, Wee SK & Chan MBP (2022) Biodiversity Record: Juvenile golden trevally at Bedok Jetty. Nature in Singapore, 15: e2022018. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2022-0018

Subject: Golden trevally, *Gnathanodon speciosus* (Teleostei: Carangiformes: Carangidae).

Subject identified by: Alan Yi Wee Yong, Daniel Zhi Yi Choong, Soon Keong Wee and Mark Boon Pho Chan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Bedok Jetty at East Coast Park; 28 November 2021; around 1700 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Shallow coastal sea with sandy substrate.

Observers: Alan Yi Wee Yong, Daniel Zhi Yi Choong, Soon Keong Wee and Mark Boon Pho Chan.

Observation: A juvenile example of about 12 cm in total length (Fig. 1) was caught from the shore with rod and reel, on hook baited with fresh prawn meat during clear weather with rising tide. It was safely released after photography.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the juvenile golden trevally that was landed. (Photograph by: Soon Keong Wee).

Remarks: The golden trevally is widely distributed across the tropical Indo-Pacific, and is native to Singapore waters (Lim & Low, 1998). It grows to 120 cm in total length and a maximum weight of 15 kg. For protection and as part of their defensive strategy against predators, juvenile golden trevallies swim in close proximity to sharks and other large fishes (Randall, 2005; Nicholson-Jack et al., 2021), as well as to jellyfish (Bray, 2021) and sea snakes of similar colour pattern (Mahadevan & Nayar, 1965). Adults turn silvery with black spots and their black bars become faded.

The species has commercial value. Adults are fished or cultured as food fish (Chou & Lee, 1997; Broach et al., 2015), while the brightly coloured juveniles are sold as ornamental fish (Michael, 2001).

Literature cited:

- Bray DJ (2021) *Gnathanodon speciosus*. Fishes of Australia. <https://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/4274> (Accessed 8 December 2021).
- Broach JS, Ohs CL, Palau A, Danson B & Elefante D (2015) Induced spawning and larval culture of golden trevally. *North American Journal of Aquaculture*, 77: 532–538.
- Chou R & Lee HB (1997) Commercial marine fish farming in Singapore. *Aquaculture Research*, 28: 767–776.
- Lim KKP & Low JKY (1998) *A Guide to Common Marine Fishes of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre, Singapore, 180 pp.
- Mahadevan S & Nayar KN (1965) Underwater ecological observations in the Gulf of Mannar, off Tuticorin. I. Association between a fish (*Gnathanodon*) and a sea-snake. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of India*, 7: 197–198.
- Michael SW (2001) *Marine Fishes. 500+ Essential-to-Know Aquarium Species*. T.F.H. Publications, Inc., Neptune City, USA, 448 pp.
- Nicholson-Jack AE, Harris JL, Ballard K, Turner KME & Stevens GMW (2021) A hitchhiker guide to manta rays: Patterns of association between *Mobula alfredi*, *M. birostris*, their symbionts, and other fishes in the Maldives. *PLoS ONE*, 16: e0253704.
- Randall JE (2005) A review of mimicry in marine fishes. *Zoological Studies*, 44: 299–328.