

Biodiversity Record: A sailfin flyingfish at Pasir Panjang

Heok Hui Tan* & Tim Shi

Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore, Singapore 117377;

Email: nhmthh@nus.edu.sg (*corresponding author)

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Subject: Sailfin flyingfish, *Parexocoetus* sp. (Teleostei: Beloniformes: Exocoetidae).

Subject identified by: Heok Hui Tan and Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, beneath Pasir Panjang jetty; 1 July 2022; around 1230 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. In coastal waters about 30 m from the shoreline during high tide.

Observer: Tim Shi.



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of flyingfish. Fig. 2. Dorso-posterior view of the same fish. (Photographs by: Tim Shi)

Observation: One example of about 12 cm total length was observed hovering at the water surface beneath the jetty.

Remarks: This example is identified as a *Parexocoetus* based on its occurrence in inshore waters and its relatively short pectoral fins, which, when folded against the body, do not appear to reach beyond the posterior part of the anal fin base, and also the mostly black dorsal fin. However, it has mostly black pectoral, pelvic and caudal fins. Such features are not reported on the two species (*Parexocoetus mento* and *Parexocoetus brachypterus*) known to occur in the seas around Southeast Asia (see Parin, 1999: 2163). Some specimens identified as *Parexocoetus mento* were collected off Kusu Island in June 2013 (Tan & Lim, 2014: 160). The 77 mm (standard length) specimen figured has a black dorsal fin, but its pectoral fins are dusky and the caudal fin and pelvic fins do not have black markings. A juvenile of about 2.5 cm, not identified to species, was photographed at Tanah Merah in 2002. It was silver and pale yellow with two black marks on the posterior lateral part of its body (Chan & Lim, 2013: 84).

Literature cited:

Chan SY & Lim KKP (2013) Flying fish *Parexocoetus* sp. at Tanah Merah shore. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2013: 84.

Parin NV (1999) Exocoetidae. In: Carpenter KE & Niem VH (eds) FAO Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes: The Living Marine Resources of the Western Central Pacific. Volume 4. Bony Fishes Part 2 (Mugilidae to Carangidae). FAO, Rome, pp. 2162–2179.

Tan HH & Lim KKP (2014) African sailfin flying fish in the Singapore Straits. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2014: 160.