

Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the nudibranch, *Goniobranchus aureopurpureus*

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Subject: Nudibranch, *Goniobranchus aureopurpureus* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Nudibranchia: Chromodorididae).

Subject identified by: Elliott James Ong, Kong Man Jing and Toh Chay Hoon.

Location, date and time: Johor Strait, Changi Beach, off carpark 7; 18 June 2022; around 0830 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine shore. Intertidal area dominated by seagrass and mussel beds. In ankle-deep water.

Observers: Elliott James Ong, Jade Jue Yu Phua and Pearl Jue Hua Phua.

Observation: One individual of about 3 cm total length was observed swimming upside-down near the edge of the exposed intertidal zone. It was briefly placed on a rock out of water for photography (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of nudibranch out of water. (Photograph by: Elliott James Ong)

Remarks: This distinctive species of nudibranch has been recorded in many localities in the Indo-Pacific region (Rudman, 1987 as *Chromodoris aureopurpurea*). Although it was not recorded in Singapore by Tan & Woo (2010), there have been unpublished observations on coral reef around the Southern Islands during scuba dives (CH Toh, unpublished data). The featured example is thus the first published record of the species for Singapore, and also the first of its kind to be reported from the Johor Strait and in an intertidal habitat.

Literature cited:

- Rudman WB (1987) The Chromodoridae (Opisthobranchia: Mollusca) of the Indo-West Pacific: *Chromodoris epicura*, *C. aureopurpurea*, *C. annulata*, *C. coi* and *Risbecia tryoni* colour groups. Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, 90: 305–407.
- Tan SK & Woo HPM (2010) A Preliminary Checklist of the Molluscs of Singapore. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 78 pp. Uploaded 2 June 2010. https://lknhm.nus.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/app/uploads/2017/04/preliminary_checklist_molluscs_singapore.pdf (Accessed 29 August 2022)