

Biodiversity Record: Rediscovery of freckled frogfish in Singapore

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Subject: Freckled frogfish, *Abantennarius coccineus* (Teleostei: Lophiiformes: Antennariidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Pulau Hantu; 20 August 2022; around 1900 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef at depth of about 15 m.

Observer: Toh Chay Hoon.

Observation: An example of about 12 cm total length was observed on the sea-bed (Fig. 1).

Remarks: The freckled frogfish was first recorded from Singapore as *Antennarius coccineus* by Bleeker (1865), and there seems to be no subsequent local report since. The example herein featured appears to represent a rediscovery of *Abantennarius coccineus* in Singapore after more than 150 years. The species resembles the sympatric spotfin frogfish, *Abantennarius nummifer*, (see Tan & Toh, 2019) in having a very short illicium, but differs in having the rear ends of its dorsal and anal fins connected to the caudal peduncle (not possible to make out in Fig. 1), and most individuals lacking the large black ocellus at the base of the dorsal fin (see Pietsch & Arnold, 2020).

Literature cited:

Bleeker P (1865) Atlas Ichthyologique des Indes Orientales Néerlandaises. Tome V. Baudroides, Ostracions, Gymnodontes, Balistes. F. Muller, Amsterdam, pp. 1–152, pls. CXCIV–CCXXXI.

Pietsch TW & Arnold RJ (2020) Frogfishes. Biodiversity, Zoogeography, and Behavioural Ecology. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, xiv + 601 pp.

Tan TS & Toh CH (2019) Rediscovery of spotfin frogfish in Singapore. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2019: 141–142.



Fig. 1. Fronto-lateral view of the left side of the frogfish. (Photograph by: Toh Chay Hoon).