

## Biodiversity Record: Rediscovery of the thumbprint emperor, *Lethrinus harak*, in Singapore

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**Subject:** Thumbprint emperor, *Lethrinus harak* (Teleostei: Perciformes: Lethrinidae).

**Subject identified by:** Jiayuan Lin.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, seawall at Marina South Pier; 8 September 2022; around 1840 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Edge of artificial seawall of granite rocks covered with coral and other reef organisms, along drop off, at a depth of around 3 m.

**Observer:** Jiayuan Lin.

**Observation:** An individual of around 20 cm total length (Fig. 1) was landed with hook and line baited with tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) meat. It was kept and donated to the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore as a voucher specimen.

**Remarks:** The thumbprint emperor was first recorded in Singapore in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, where it was described as *Lethrinus rhodopterus* by Bleeker (1852). *Lethrinus rhodopterus* is presently regarded as a synonym of *Lethrinus harak* (see Carpenter & Allen, 1989). Until the present record, the species has apparently not been reported from Singapore for about 170 years.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of *Lethrinus harak* immediately after it was landed at Marina South Pier. (Photograph by: Jiayuan Lin).

### Literature cited:

Bleeker P (1852) Bijdrage tot de kennis der ichthyologische fauna van Singapore. Natuurkundig Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsche Indië, 3: 51–86.

Carpenter KE & Allen GR (1989) FAO Species catalogue. Vol. 9. Emperor fishes and large-eye breams of the World (family Lethrinidae). An annotated and illustrated catalogue of lethrinid species known to date. FAO Fisheries Synopsis, No. 125, Volume 9: 1–118.