

Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the siphonfish, *Siphamia elongata*

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Subject: Elongate siphonfish, *Siphamia elongata* (Teleostei: Kurtiformes: Apogonidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, western side of Pulau Hantu; 13 May 2023; around 2015 hrs.

Habitats: Marine. Coral reef, at the seabed with silty sand substrate, at around 11 m depth.

Observer: Toh Chay Hoon.

Observation: An individual of about 4 cm total length (Fig. 1) was observed hovering just above the substrate.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the subject. (Photograph: Toh Chay Hoon).

Remarks: This seems to be the second species of the genus *Siphamia* to be recorded from Singapore waters, the first being *Siphamia tubifer* (see Ng & Lim, 2014). The featured fish can be distinguished from *Siphamia tubifer* by its markings and comparatively smaller head. *Siphamia elongata* is very similar to *Siphamia corallicola* but has a complete lateral line, instead of one that is restricted to the anterior part of the body (Allen & Erdmann, 2012). *Siphamia elongata* inhabits coastal reefs where it tends to aggregate among branching gorgonians and black coral, as well as crinoids and sea urchins. It is known from the Philippines, northern Borneo and Papua New Guinea (Allen & Erdmann, 2012; Kuitert & Kozawa, 2019). It is interesting to note that the featured individual was alone and not sheltering among corals. This also seems to be a range extension for this species across to the western edge of the South China Sea.

Literature cited:

- Allen GR & Erdmann MV (2012) Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Vol. 1. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. xiii + 424 pp.
- Kuitert RH & Kozawa T (2019) Cardinalfishes of the World. New edition. Aquatic Photographics, Seaford, Victoria, Australia and Anthis (Nexus), Okazaki, Aichi, Japan, 198 pp.
- Ng HH & Lim KKP (2014) A preliminary checklist of the cardinalfishes (Actinopterygii: Gobiiformes: Apogonidae) of Singapore. Check List, 10: 1061–1070.