

## Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the cardinalfish, *Apogon talboti*

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**Subjects:** Talbot's cardinalfish, *Apogon talboti* (Teleostei: Kurtiformes: Apogonidae).

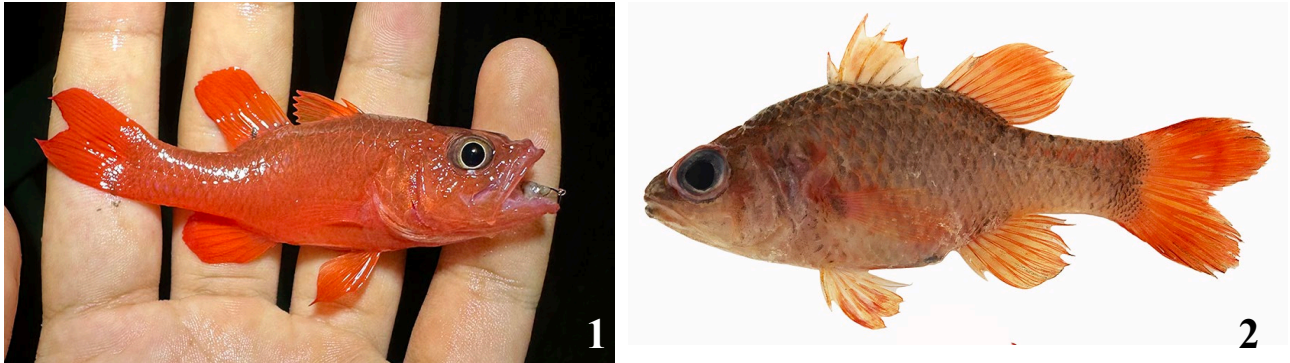
**Subjects identified by:** Jiayuan Lin.

**Location and date:** Singapore Strait, along Marina South; 17 February 2023 at 1943 hrs and 19 February 2023 at 1906 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Coastal shore embankment of concrete and granite rocks.

**Observer:** Collected by Jiayuan Lin.

**Observations:** Two examples, one of 65.2 mm standard length (Fig. 1) was taken on 17 February 2023, and the other of 71.7 mm standard length (Fig. 2) was obtained on 19 February 2023. Both were fished by hook-and-line with whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) as bait. They have been preserved and deposited as reference specimens in the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore.



Lateral views of *Apogon talboti* from Marina South. Fig. 1. Freshly caught and 65.2 mm SL example (ZRC 64486) from 17 February 2023. Note the intense red colouration of the live fish. (Photograph by: Jiayuan Lin) Fig. 2. Preserved 71.7 mm SL example (ZRC 64485) from 19 February 2023. The red colour faded upon preservation. (Photograph by: Kelvin K. P. Lim).

**Remarks:** This seems to be the first record of *Apogon talboti* from Singapore (see Ng & Lim, 2014). Its presence there should not be unexpected as the species has a wide distribution in the Indo-west Pacific from the Red Sea, through Indonesia, and north to Japan. It inhabits shallow seas (to about 15 m depth) and is nocturnal in habits, hiding in caves, crevices and coral rubble. *Apogon talboti* is distinguished from the very similar *Apogon unicolor* in having its lateral line running higher (about one scale row) beneath the first dorsal fin (Kuiter & Kozawa, 2019).

### Literature cited:

- Kuiter 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.