

Biodiversity Record: A record of the bignose unicornfish, *Naso vlamingii*, in Singapore

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Subject: Bignose unicornfish, *Naso vlamingii* (Teleostei: Acanthuriformes: Acanthuridae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore, purchased at a fish market by V. Jacobs in March 1926.

Habitat: Presumably marine.

Observer: Kelvin K. P. Lim. Based on examination of a specimen at the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore. It is one of a group of specimens that used to belong to the Raffles Museum, and the National Museum of Singapore. These, transferred to the National University of Singapore in the 1970s, are now part of the ZRC (see Tan, 2014).

Observation: A preserved example (Fig. 1) of about 44 cm standard length (tip of snout to caudal base), was accessioned as ZRC 2359.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of preserved *Naso vlamingii* (ZRC 2359) from a fishmarket in March 1926 (Photograph by: Kelvin K. P. Lim).

Remarks: This specimen, identified as *Naso tuberosus* on the original museum label, was unreported in literature (see Fowler, 1938; Herre, 1940; Tweedie, 1940). The bulbous snout, dark spots and vertical lines on the sides, and caudal fin with convex distal margin distinguish *Naso vlamingii* from its congeners (Kuitert & Debelius, 2001; Randall, 2001). Despite there being no previous records of this species in Singapore waters, its occurrence there can be expected for it has a wide distribution from East Africa eastwards throughout Indonesia and northern Australia, north to Japan, and further east in the Pacific to the Line, Society and Tuamotu Islands (Randall, 2001; Allen & Erdmann, 2012). As the specimen was acquired at a market, there is a possibility that it was not obtained from Singapore waters. Its status in the country should be regarded as indeterminate.

Literature cited:

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