

Biodiversity Record: Occurrence of the wrasse, *Diproctacanthus xanthurus*, in the Singapore Strait

Charles Z. M. Tan* & Zeehan Jaafar

Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore 117557

Email: ctzm@nus.edu.sg (*corresponding author), jaafarz@nus.edu.sg

Recommended citation. Tan CZM & Jaafar Z (2024) Biodiversity Record: Occurrence of the wrasse, *Diproctacanthus xanthurus*, in the Singapore Strait. Nature in Singapore, 17: e2024005. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2024-0005

Subject: Yellowtail tubelip wrasse, *Diproctacanthus xanthurus* (Teleostei: Perciformes: Labridae).

Subject identified by: Charles Z. M. Tan and Zeehan Jaafar.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Pulau Satumu, 22 October 2023, around 1300 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef. Along the reef crest.

Observers: Charles Z. M. Tan and Zeehan Jaafar.

Observation: One individual of approximately 8 cm total length (Fig. 1) was observed swimming in midwater along the reef crest at a depth of around 3 m.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of *Diproctacanthus xanthurus* in-situ, swimming along the reef crest (Photograph by: Charles Z. M. Tan).

Remarks: This observation confirms the occurrence of *Diproctacanthus xanthurus* in Singapore. This species was recorded once in the country from reefs around the southern islands by Low & Chou (1994) in an obscure article, but not substantiated by photographs or specimens. The base body colour of this species is white; a pair of dark brown spindle-shaped stripes courses antero-posteriorly along the flank — one starting above the eye and along the dorsal part of the body, while the second begins at the snout, courses over the eyes, and terminates at the caudal peduncle (Allen & Erdmann, 2012). The genus *Diproctacanthus* is distributed throughout the Indo-Pacific, including the East Indian region, and has been observed to remove parasites off client fishes (Allen & Erdmann, 2012).

Literature cited:

- Allen GR & Erdmann MV (2012) Reef Fishes of the East Indies, Vol. 2. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia, xiii + 665 pp.
- Low JKY & Chou LM (1994) Coral reef fish communities in a sediment stressed environment. Proceedings of the Fourth LIPI-JSPS Joint Seminar on Marine Science, Jakarta, 15–18 November 1994, pp. 91–99.