

Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the freckled grouper, *Cephalopholis microprion*

Jiayuan Lin* & Que Bowen

Email: jylin2002@gmail.com (*corresponding author), bowen0114@gmail.com

Recommended citation. Lin J & Que B (2024) Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the freckled grouper, *Cephalopholis microprion*. Nature in Singapore, 17: e2024023. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2024-0023

Subject: Freckled grouper or freckled hind, *Cephalopholis microprion* (Teleostei: Perciformes: Epinephelidae).

Subject identified by: Jiayuan Lin.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Pulau Seringat; 27 January 2024; 1230 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, in about 4 m depth.

Observer: Que Bowen.

Observations: One example (Fig. 1) of about 13 cm total length was caught with hook and line baited with tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) meat. It was released after photography.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of *Cephalopholis microprion* freshly landed and alive (Photograph by: Que Bowen).

Remarks: This is apparently the first record of *Cephalopholis microprion* in Singapore waters (see Fowler, 1938; Tweedie, 1940). Its occurrence there is not surprising as it occurs in the western Pacific from the Malay Peninsula and the Philippines through Indonesia, to Vanuatu and north-eastern Australia. The species grows to a maximum known total length of 23 cm. It is uniformly dark brown with numerous small bluish-white spots on the head and anterior body (Allen & Erdmann, 2012).

Although this appears to be the first record published for this species in Singapore, there are two specimens (ZRC 27224 & 27225) in the Zoological Reference Collections of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore, that were collected from Pulau Salu in 1976 (Kelvin K. P. Lim, personal communication).

Literature cited:

Allen GR & Erdmann MV (2012) Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Vol. 1. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia, xiii + 1–424 pp.

Fowler HW (1938) A list of fishes known from Malaya. Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore, 1: 1–268.

Tweedie MWF (1940) Additions to the collection of fishes in the Raffles Museum. Bulletin of the Raffles Museum, Singapore, 16: 68–82.