

A post-larval yellow soapfish

Subject: Yellow soapfish, *Diploprion bifasciatum* (Teleostei: Serranidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, Semakau Landfill; 3 March 2011.

Habitat: Intertidal zone of seawall above coral reef.

Observer: Wang Luan Keng.

Observation: A post-larval juvenile of 21 mm standard length (tip of snout to base of tail) was found stranded on a seawall. It was pale yellow with a faint dusky bar above the hind part of the eye, had enlarged bright yellow pectoral fins, and two long and filamentous simple rays on its first dorsal fin (Fig. 1).

Remarks: This carnivorous, reef-dwelling fish grows to a total length (snout tip to outer margin of caudal fin) of 240 mm (Lim & Low, 2002). A 113 mm standard length adult obtained at Saint John's Island on 6 June 2013 (Fig. 2), is shown here for comparison. Although adults are quite common in the Singapore Straits, juveniles like the one illustrated here are rarely seen.

Reference: Lim, K. K. P. & J. K. Y. Low, 2002. *A Guide to Common Marine Fishes of Singapore*. Revised edition. 163 pp.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Photographs by Tan Heok Hui.

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