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## Juvenile longfin batfish in the Singapore Straits

**Subject:** Longfin batfish, *Platax pinnatus* (Teleostei: Ephippidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Straits, off Little Sister Island; 15 October 2013; 1400hr.

**Habitat:** Marine, coral reef, at about 7m depth.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** A small juvenile longfin batfish, about 2 cm in total length, was found in a hole amongst corals. It swam about with exaggerated undulating motions close to the substrate.

**Remarks:** The juvenile batfish, with its distinctive colour pattern, laterally flattened body, large fins and exaggerated swimming motions, is believed to mimic certain species of poisonous marine flatworms (Allen & Erdmann, 2012).

**Reference:** Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies*. Volume III. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. p. 857-1292.



Photographs by Toh Chay Hoon

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