

## Shrimps and saddleback anemonefish on carpet anemone off Pulau Hantu

**Subjects:** Holthuis's anemone shrimp, *Periclimenes holthuisi* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Palaemonidae). Fig. 1.  
Saddleback anemonefish, *Amphiprion polymnus* (Teleostei: Pomacentridae). Fig. 2 & 3.  
Carpet anemone, *Stichodactyla haddoni* (Cnidaria: Actiniaria: Stichodactylidae). Fig. 1, 2 & 3.

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Straits, patch reef west of Pulau Hantu; 15 December 2013; 0930 hrs.

**Habitat:** Coral reef at depth of about 10 m. Underwater visibility was poor, about 1 m.

**Observer:** Contributor, with others.

**Observation:** A large carpet anemone of about 30 cm in diameter was inhabited by two saddleback anemonefish (10 and 5 cm total length), as well as two commensal shrimps (each about 2 cm total length).

**Remarks:** Carpet anemones are fairly common along the shores of Singapore, but apparently only those found on coral reefs are likely to host commensal shrimps and fishes. The identification of the anemone shrimp *Periclimenes holthuisi* is based on a picture in Debelius (1999: 177). The saddleback anemonefish is among five species of *Amphiprion* recorded from Singapore, but locally rare. It seems to be the only anemonefish in Singapore to inhabit the carpet anemone. Apart from *Stichodactyla haddoni*, the saddleback anemonefish also associates with *Heteractis crispa* (Fautin & Allen, 1994: 102). All species of *Amphiprion* are regarded as vulnerable in Singapore due to their commercial importance as ornamental fishes (Lim et al., 2008: 154).

### References:

- Debelius, H., 1999. *Crustacea Guide of the World*. IKAN-Unterwasserarchiv, Frankfurt, Germany. 321 pp.  
Fautin, D. G. & G. R. Allen, 1994. *Anemone Fishes and their Host Sea Anemones*. Tetra-Press, Melle, Germany. vii + 159 pp.  
Lim, K. K. P., H. H. Tan & J. K. Y. Low, 2008. Fishes. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore. Second edition*. Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 145-154.



Fig. 1. One of the two *Periclimenes holthuisi*.

Photograph by Toh Chay Hoon



Fig. 2. Larger of two *Amphiprion polymnus*.



Fig. 3. Smaller of two *Amphiprion polymnus*.

Photographs by Toh Chay Hoon

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