

Aggregation of two species of demoiselle fishes at Pulau Hantu

Subjects: Brown demoiselle, *Neopomacentrus filamentosus* (Teleostei: Pomacentridae).
Chinese demoiselle, *Neopomacentrus bankieri* (Teleostei: Pomacentridae).

Subjects identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, off Pulau Hantu; 8 December 2013; around 1200 hrs.

Habitat: Coral reef, at depth of about 4 m.

Observer: Toh Chay Hoon.

Observation: At least 6 *Neopomacentrus filamentosus* (the two fish on the left and right sides of the picture) and 12 *Neopomacentrus bankieri* (the three fish in the centre of the picture) were observed aggregating over colonies of *Goniopora* coral, hovering or darting about in the water column. The largest examples were about 7 cm in total length.

Remarks: Demoiselles (genus *Neopomacentrus*) are common reef fishes in Singapore waters. They tend to hover in large aggregations in the water column, feeding on zooplankton. The two congeners featured here are distinguished by their distinct colour pattern. *Neopomacentrus filamentosus* has whitish caudal fin with a black margin on each lobe, and a black spot at the base of its pectoral fin. *Neopomacentrus bankieri* has its caudal fin, caudal peduncle and rear part of the dorsal fin yellow. (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 606-607).

Reference: Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume II*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. pp. 425-856.



Photograph by Toh Chay Hoon

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