

## Spot-tail sleeper-rays in the Singapore Straits

**Subjects:** Spot-tail sleeper-ray, *Narke dipterygia* (Chondrichthyes: Narkidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributors.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Straits near the Eastern Boarding Ground A (1°13'036"N 103°52'820"E); 22 May.2013; 1042-1052 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. From substrates of gravel and small rocks at depths of at least 103 m.

**Observers:** Lim Swee Cheng and others.

**Observation:** Four adult examples, a male of 115.9 mm standard length (123.4 mm total length) [Fig. 1] and 3 females of between 120.7 and 140.0 mm standard lengths (129.4 and 148.8 mm total lengths) [Fig. 2], were obtained by beam trawl. They have been catalogued as ZRC 54152–54155 in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore.

**Remarks:** This distinctive electric ray was first recorded from Singapore by Cantor (1849: 1401, as *Astrape dipterygia*). It is recognised by its single dorsal fin, circular brownish to greenish disc, white bars on the sides of the tail that extend anteriorly to above the rear part of the pelvic fin bases, and paired large white spots on the rear of the disc. This species grows to at least 18 cm total length and is distributed in the tropical Indo-west Pacific from Oman eastwards to Malaysia, and northwards to Japan (Last et al, 2010: 166). *Narke dipterygia* seems to be rare in Singapore, and this could be due to its apparent preference for the deeper waters of the Singapore Straits, and can only be obtained by dredging.

### References:

- Cantor, T. E., 1849. Catalogue of Malayan fishes. *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*. 18 (2): i-xii, 983-1443.
- Last, P. R., W. T. White, J. N. Caira, Dharmadi, Fahmi, K. Jensen, A. P. K. Lim, B. M. Manjaji-Matsumoto, G. J. P. Naylor, J. J. Pogonoski, J. D. Stevens & G. K. Yearsley, 2010. *Sharks and Rays of Borneo*. CSIRO Publishing, Australia. v + 298 pp.

**Note:** This is a contribution of the Singapore **Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey** conducted by the National University of Singapore's Tropical Marine Science Institute and the National Parks Board.

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Fig. 1. Dorsal (left) and ventral (right) views of male (ZRC 54153) of 123.4 mm total length.

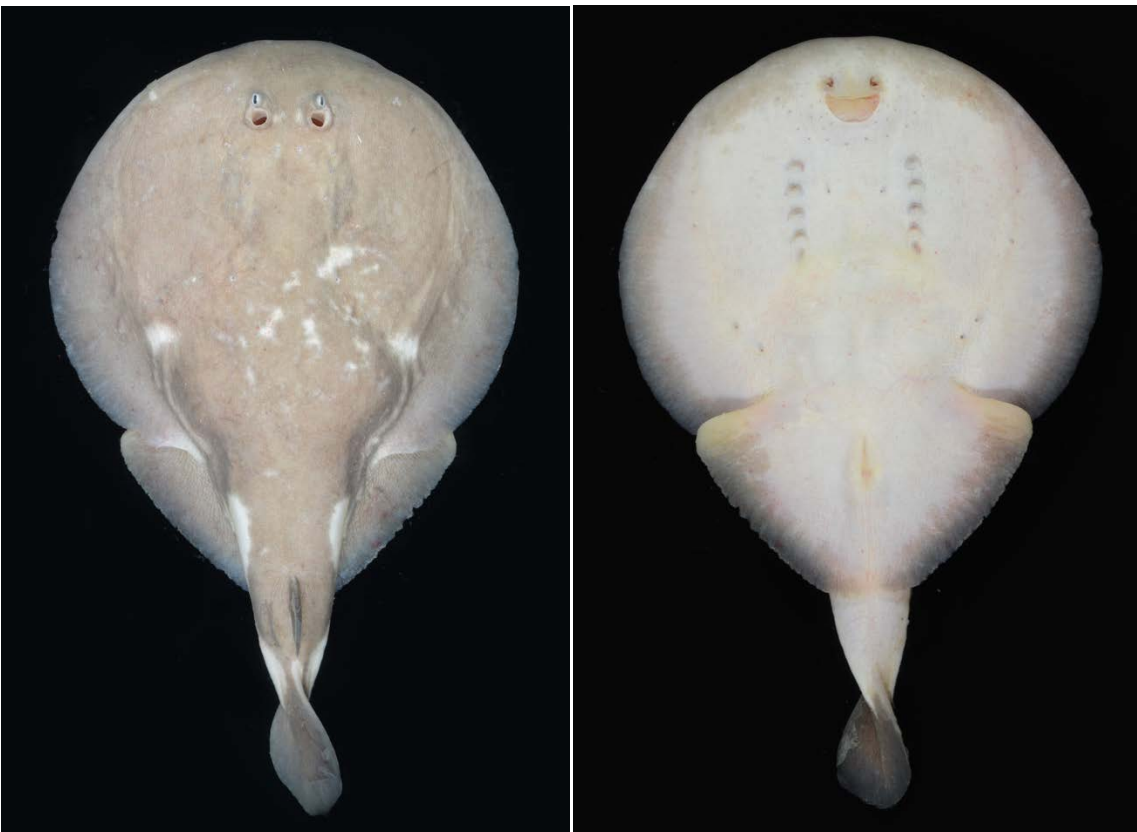


Fig. 2. Dorsal (left) and ventral (right) views of female (ZRC 54152) of 129.4 mm total length.

Photographs by Tan Heok Hui