

## Nape-banded coral goby from Terumbu Berkas

**Subject:** Nape-banded coral goby, *Priolepis nuchifasciata* (Teleostei: Gobiidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Strait, Terumbu Berkas Besar, off the northern tip of Pulau Pawai; 17 November 2014; 1320 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Coral reef, at the bottom of a channel, just beyond submerged reef flats, at about 15 m depth.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** A flat piece of coral rock, about 80 cm across, on the substrate of the channel was overturned. Three examples of *Priolepis nuchifasciatus* were revealed on the underside of this rock. Two darted off immediately, but one swam deeper into a crevice on the rock and was trapped. This individual of 18.0 mm standard length (snout tip to tail base), illustrated in the attached picture, has been deposited and catalogued as ZRC 54637 in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore.

**Remarks:** These gobies inhabit coral reef, and are often overlooked due to their small size and cryptic habits. *Priolepis nuchifasciata* is widely distributed in Indo-West Pacific from Singapore to north-eastern Australia (Larson & Lim, 2005). This species had been previously recorded from Berting Bronok in the eastern Johor Strait; and from Sentosa, Pulau Semakau and Pulau Hantu in the Singapore Strait (Larson et al., 2008).

### References:

- Larson, H. K. & K. K. P. Lim, 2005. *A guide to Gobies of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre. 164 pp.  
Larson, H. K., Z. Jaafar & K. K. P. Lim, 2008. An annotated checklist of the gobioid fishes of Singapore. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. 56 (1): 135-155.



*Priolepis nuchifasciata* (ZRC 54637) from Terumbu Berkas Besar. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

**Note:** This is a contribution of the Singapore **Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey** conducted by the National University of Singapore's Tropical Marine Science Institute, Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum and the National Parks Board.

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