

Orangefin wrasse at Pulau Satumu

Subject: Orangefin wrasse, *Halichoeres melanochir* (Teleostei: Labridae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, off Pulau Satumu; 23 September 2014, 10 April 2015 and 4 May 2015.

Habitat: Marine. Fringing coral reef at around 5 m depth.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: An example of about 8 cm total length, observed near the substrate on 23 September 2014 is shown in the accompanying picture. Two individuals, each around 10 cm total length, were subsequently observed on 10 April and 4 May 2015.

Remarks: *Halichoeres melanochir* has been recorded from Singapore reefs by Khoo & Tay (1990: 77) but seems to be locally uncommon. This species occurs in the East Indian region, western Australia and northwards to southern Japan (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 677; Kuitert, 2002: 131).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume II*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. p. 425-856.
- Khoo H. W. & S. W. Tay, 1990. Coral reef fishes of Singapore. In: Chou L. M. & P. K. L. Ng (eds.). *Essays in Zoology*. Department of Zoology, National University of Singapore. p. 61-82.
- Kuitert, R. H., 2002. *Fairy and Rainbow Wrasses and their relatives. A Comprehensive Guide to selected Labroids*. TMC Publishing, Chorleywood, UK. 208 pp.



Photograph by Jeffrey K. Y. Low

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