

A moon wrasse off Lazarus Island

Adib Adris

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Subject: Moon wrasse, *Thalassoma lunare* (Teleostei: Labridae).

Subject identified by: Adib Adris.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Lazarus Island, towards Pulau Seringat; 12 October 2019; around 1500 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef at around 7 m depth. Water was relatively clear in cloudy weather.

Observers: Adris Isnin, Adib Adris & Ashraf Abdul Rashid.

Observation: One example of about 8 cm total length was caught on hook and line baited with small pieces of prawn meat. It was held temporarily in a clear plastic receptacle, and released after photography (see accompanying picture).

Remarks: The moon wrasse appears to be uncommon in Singapore waters. One was caught in the Singapore Strait off Kusu Island in November 1998 (Tan & Lim, 2014). This species frequents coral reef and is widely distributed across the tropical Indo-west Pacific (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 722).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume II*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. p. 425-856.
Tan H. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2014. Moon wrasse off Kusu Island. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 298.



Dorso-lateral view of the moon wrasse. Photograph by Adib Adris