

Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the trevally, *Platyvaranx talamparoides*

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Subjects: Imposter trevally, *Platyvaranx talamparoides* (Teleostei: Carangiformes: Carangidae).

Subjects identified by: Jiayuan Lin and Aidan Raphael Keh.

Location and dates: Singapore Strait, East Coast Park, Bedok Jetty; November and December 2022.

Habitat: Marine. Shallow coastal sea beside concrete jetty of around 4 m depth, with silty seabed and sparse coral rubble.

Observers: Jiayuan Lin and Aidan Raphael Keh.

Observations: Three fish were obtained on hook-and-line on separate days at Bedok Jetty. All were donated to the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore where they have been preserved and assigned catalogue numbers as part of the Zoological Reference Collection.

- 1) ZRC 63447: one juvenile of around 7.6 cm total length (Fig. 1) was obtained by Jiayuan Lin with an anchovy-mimic soft plastic lure. It was landed on 17 November 2022 at 1420 hrs, on rising tide, weak current, from a depth of about 3 m over silty bottom.
- 2) ZRC 63448: a juvenile of about 9.3 cm total length (Fig. 2) was landed by Jiayuan Lin on 27 November 2022 at 1517 hrs.
- 3) ZRC 65075: an example of about 12.2 cm total length (Fig. 3) was taken by Aidan Raphael Keh with *Litopenaeus vannamei* meat as bait on 22 December 2022.

Remarks: This appears to be the first record of *Platyvaranx talamparoides* in Singapore waters (see e.g., Fowler, 1938; Tweedie, 1940; Ng et al., 2015). Its presence there was expected due to it having a wide Indo-Pacific distribution (Smith-Vaniz, 1999 as *Carangoides talamparoides*).

A closely related and morphologically similar species, the Malabar trevally, *Platyvaranx malabaricus*, has been recorded in Singapore (Herre & Myers, 1937; Fowler, 1938), and it is possible that individuals have previously been confused with *Platyvaranx talamparoides*. *Platyvaranx talamparoides* may be distinguished from *Platyvaranx malabaricus* by tongue color and gill raker counts. *Platyvaranx talamparoides* has a white to pale grey tongue (Fig. 1B) and 27 to 31 gill rakers on the first gill arch, while *Platyvaranx malabaricus* has a greyish-brown to brown tongue and 32 to 38 gill rakers on the first gill arch (Smith-Vaniz, 1999, as *Carangoides talamparoides* and *Carangoides malabaricus*; see Fig. 2). Both *Platyvaranx talamparoides* and *Platyvaranx malabaricus* can be distinguished from other similar looking trevallies by having a narrow protrusion of the upper lip around the upper jaw symphysis (Kimura et al., 2022; see Fig. 1C), and a small, scaleless area above the pectoral fin base (Smith-Vaniz, 1999, as *Carangoides talamparoides* and *Carangoides malabaricus*; see Fig. 3B).

Literature cited:

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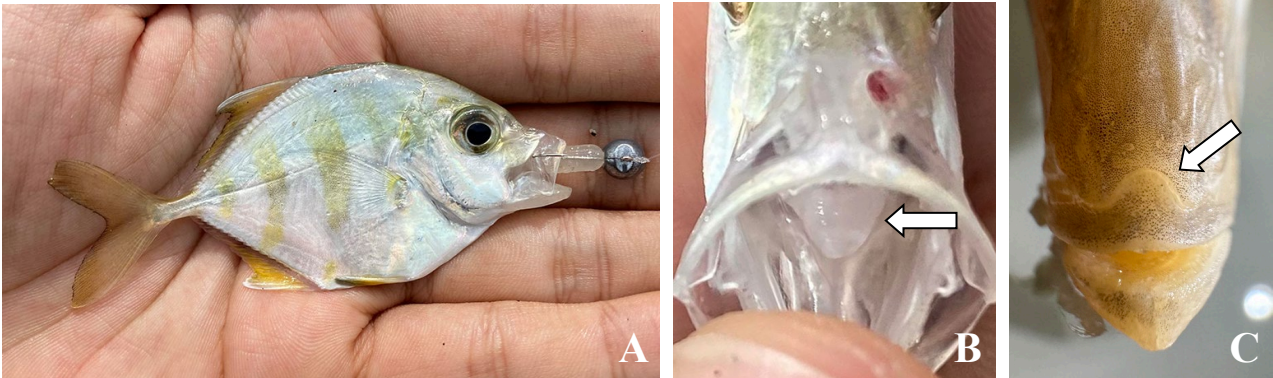


Fig. 1. *Platycaranx talamparoides* of about 7.6 cm total length (ZRC 63447). A, lateral view, freshly captured and alive. B, frontal view of open mouth showing tongue (indicated by arrow) of fish in life. C, frontal view of mouth showing upper jaw symphysis (Photographs by: Jiayuan Lin).



Fig. 2. Lateral view *Platycaranx talamparoides*: of about 9.3 cm total length (ZRC 63448), freshly preserved. (Photograph by: Kelvin K. P. Lim)

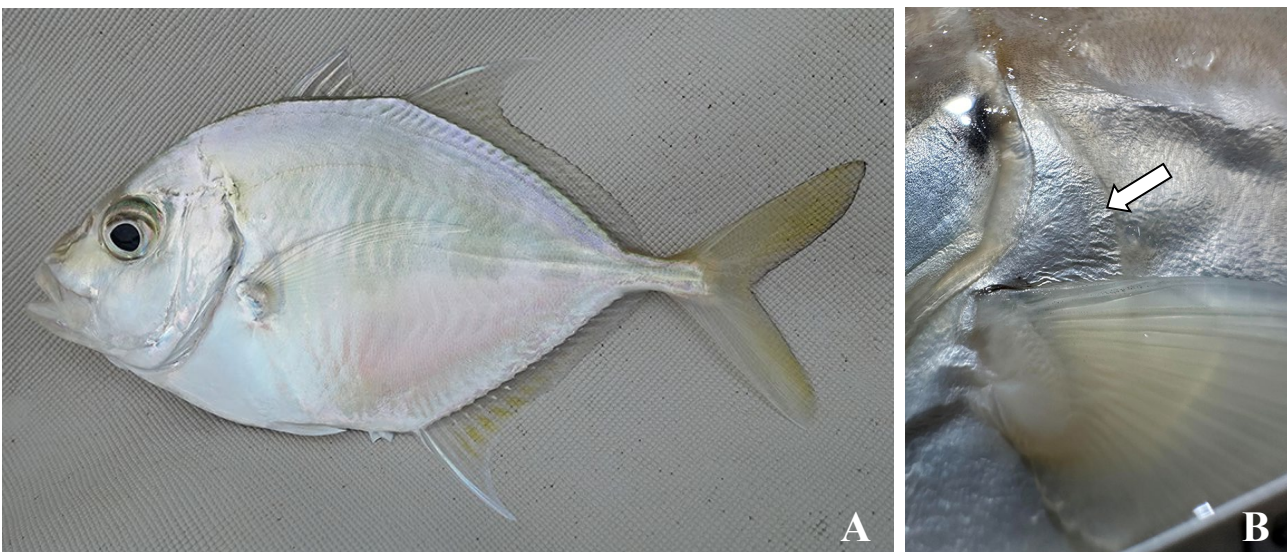


Fig. 3. *Platycaranx talamparoides* of about 12.2 cm total length (ZRC 65075). A, lateral view when freshly landed and alive (Photograph by: Aidan Raphael Keh). B, scaleless area above pectoral fin base (indicated by arrow), post preservation (Photograph by: Jiayuan Lin).