

## Biodiversity Record: Eye-spot pufferfish, *Dichotomyctere ocellatus*, at Pasir Ris

Lumin Ong Jun Xiang

Email: [luminongjx@gmail.com](mailto:luminongjx@gmail.com)

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**Subject:** Eye-spot or Figure-eight pufferfish, *Dichotomyctere ocellatus* (Teleostei: Tetraodontiformes: Tetraodontidae).

**Subject identified by:** Jiayuan Lin and Lumin Ong Jun Xiang.

**Locations and dates:** Singapore Island, Sungei Tampines at Pasir Ris Park mangrove; 6 November 2024; around 1732 hrs.

**Habitat:** Estuarine. In shallow brackish water at edge of mangrove swamp leading out to a drainage channel during receding tide.

**Observer:** Lumin Ong Jun Xiang.

**Observation:** One example of about 6 cm total length was found in shallow water, resting on the sediment among mangrove roots (Fig. 1). It had an apparently fresh gaping wound on the right side of its dorsum above the pectoral fin. The fish was noted to be breathing and had slight fin movements, but it did not swim during the observation. A few congeneric juvenile green spotted pufferfish (*Dichotomyctere nigroviridis*) were swimming about in the area but did not interact with the subject.

**Remarks:** The eye-spot pufferfish occurs in the coastal drainages in Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo (Dekkers, 1975, as *Tetraodon steindachneri*; Kottelat et al., 1993, as *Tetraodon biocellatus*; Nagao Natural Environment Foundation, 2021). According to Dekkers (1975, as *Tetraodon steindachneri*), this species is known from Singapore, although there had been no recent record. The featured observation thus confirms its occurrence.

Because the species is a well-known ornamental fish (see e.g., Baensch & Fischer, 2002, as *Tetraodon biocellatus*) that is often locally imported and sold (pers. obs.), and also due to the featured individual's injury and apparent lethargy, the possibility of it being an abandoned pet should be taken into consideration.

### Literature cited:

- Baensch HA & Fischer GW (2002) Aquarium Atlas. Photo-index 1–5. Second English edition. Mergus Verlag, Melle, Germany, 1211 pp.
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- Kottelat M, Whitten AJ, Kartikasari SN & Wirjoatmodjo S (1993) Freshwater Fishes of Western Indonesia and Sulawesi. Periplus Editions Limited, Hong Kong, xxxviii + 221 pp., 84 pls.
- Nagao Natural Environment Foundation (2021) Fishes of the Indochinese Mekong. Nagao Natural Environment Foundation, Tokyo, Japan, xii + 546 pp.



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of the eye-spot pufferfish, in-situ. Note the wound on the right side of its back (Photograph by: Lumin Ong Jun Xiang).