

Biodiversity Record: Confirmed presence of the catfish, *Kyataphisa nenga*, in Singapore

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Subject: Spotfin catfish, *Kyataphisa nenga* (Teleostei: Siluriformes: Ariidae).

Subject identified by: Aidan Raphael Keh.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Bedok Jetty off East Coast Park; 28 December 2022; around 0553 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Silty bottom with sparse coral rubble, approximately 5 m deep.

Observers: Aidan Raphael Keh and Kyran Chua.

Observation: An example of about 18 cm total length (Fig. 1) was caught by hook and line with squid (*Urotheuthis* sp.) meat as bait. The specimen was released after photography.



Fig. 1. Ex-situ dorso-lateral view of *Kyataphisa nenga*, less than a minute after capture (Photograph by: Kyran Chua).

Remarks: *Kyataphisa nenga* was recorded in Singapore by Bleeker (1861, as *Arius caelatus*). However, due to the possibility of the record being based on market specimens, as well as the lack of a confirmed locally collected specimen or photograph, the occurrence of this species was considered dubious by Ng (2012, as *Nemapteryx nenga*). The featured specimen thus confirms the occurrence of *Kyataphisa nenga* in Singapore. Due to the numerous species of ariid catfish that occur sympatrically in the waters around Singapore and their visual similarities, it is possible for sightings prior to this record to have been overlooked.

Kyataphisa nenga can be distinguished from other Ariidae in the region by having 1) very strong and compressed dorsal and pectoral fin spines, with the basal half thick, rugose and pitted; the leading edge granulated; the hind edge strongly

serrated; 2) a distinct black spot on the rear half of the adipose fin; and 3) villiform teeth in two triangular patches on each side of the palate (Fig 2) (see Faizal, 2023, as *Nemapteryx nenga*).



Fig. 2. Palatal tooth patches of a *Kyataphisa nenga* of about 21 cm total length from Batu Pahat, Johor, Malaysia (Photograph by Jiayuan Lin).

Literature cited:

- Bleeker P (1861) Mededeelingomtrent vischsoorten, nieuw voor de kennis der fauna van Singapoera. Verslagen en Mededeelingen der Koninklijke Akademie van Wetenschappen. Afdeling Natuurkunde, 12: 28–63.
- Faizal, F (2023) Species Identification of *Nemapteryx* (family Ariidae) found in Larut Matang estuary, using morphological variations. Unpublished BSc. thesis. International Islamic University Malaysia, Selangor, x+36 pp.
- Ng HH (2012) The ariid catfishes of Singapore. Nature in Singapore, 5: 211–222.