

## Biodiversity Record: Confirmed occurrence of the triggerfish, *Canthidermis maculatus*, in Singapore

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**Subject:** Oceanic triggerfish, *Canthidermis maculatus* (Teleostei: Tetraodontiformes: Balistidae).

**Subject identified by:** David Kang.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Marina South beneath the Marina Coastal Expressway, area part of the Singapore Strait along the reclaimed southern coastline of Singapore Island; 25 July 2025; around 1100 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Coastal sea among massive concrete structures in an urban environment.

**Observer:** David Kang.

**Observation:** One example of about 18 cm total length and 14.9 cm standard length (from snout tip to base of caudal fin) (Figs. 1 & 2) was caught on hook and line baited with prawn meat near the surface of the water. It has been preserved and deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection, of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore, under the accession number ZRC 68816.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the left side of the freshly landed *Canthidermis maculatus*. Note the numerous white spots (Photograph by: David Kang).



Fig. 2. Lateral view of the right side of the freshly landed *Canthidermis maculatus*. Note the white spots seem to have faded (Photograph by: David Kang).

**Remarks:** *Canthidermis maculatus* is an epipelagic fish that usually occurs in aggregations far out in the open sea and among drifting objects. It grows to a maximum size of about 50 cm total length, and is found throughout the world in tropical and temperate seas (Matsuura, 2001; Allen & Erdmann, 2024). Listed as present in Singapore by de Beaufort & Briggs (1962, as *Balistes rotundatus*), there apparently have been no records of the species from the country thereafter. The featured example thus confirms the occurrence of *Canthidermis maculatus* in Singapore's territorial waters. This individual could have drifted inshore alongside flotsam (see Lin et al., 2024).

**Literature cited:**

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