

Biodiversity Record: Indian threadfin, *Leptomelanosoma indicum*, at Tuas

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Subject: Indian threadfin, *Leptomelanosoma indicum* (Teleostei: Carangiformes: Polynemidae).

Subject identified by: Aidan Raphael Keh.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island/Singapore Strait, Tuas; 19 July 2025; around 1725 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coastal sea with turbid water and strong currents. From around 20 m depth.

Observer: Aidan Raphael Keh.

Observation: A juvenile example of 23 cm standard length (from snout tip to base of caudal fin) (Fig. 1) was hooked on a sabiki rig baited with whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*). It is preserved in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore, under the catalogue number ZRC 68653.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the subject shortly after landing (Photograph by: Aidan Raphael Keh).

Remarks: The Indian threadfin, known locally as ikan kurau, is a ‘first class fish favoured by all sections of the community’ in Singapore (Tham, 1973, as *Polynemus* species). It is distributed from Pakistan, along the Indian coast to Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, where it inhabits shallow seas near and in estuaries, and can reach at least 1.4 m in total length (Motomura, 2004). In Singapore, large specimens seen in wet markets seem to be mostly imported. However, as evidenced by this record, smaller examples can be caught in the wild by leisure anglers, albeit infrequently.

Leptomelanosoma indicum is distinguishable from other local polynemids by the following morphological features: pectoral fin inserted below midline of the body, lip present on anterior part of the lower jaw, anal fin base shorter than head length, pectoral fin base (including pectoral filament base) shorter than length of upper jaw, five pectoral filaments, adipose eyelid moderately developed, space separating premaxillary tooth bands shorter than width of each band, tips of upper and lower caudal fin lobes extended into long filaments (Motomura, 2004).

Literature cited:

Motomura H (2004) Threadfins of the World (family Polynemidae). An annotated and illustrated catalogue of polynemid species known to date. FAO Species Catalogue for Fishery Purposes. No. 3. FAO, Rome, 117 pp., 6 colour pls.
Tham AK (1973) Sea fish. In: Chuang SH (ed.) Animal Life and Nature in Singapore. Singapore University Press, Singapore, pp. 202–226.