

Biodiversity Record: The saddleback mojarra, *Gerres limbatus*, in Singapore

Aidan Raphael Keh* & Julian Sim

Email: aidankeh47@gmail.com (* corresponding author), simjulian@outlook.com

Recommended citation. Keh AR & Sim J (2026) Biodiversity Record: The saddleback mojarra, *Gerres limbatus*, in Singapore. Nature in Singapore, 19: e2026020. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2026-0020

Subject: Saddleback mojarra, *Gerres limbatus* (Teleostei: Acanthuriformes: Gerreidae).

Subject identified by: Aidan Raphael Keh and Julian Sim.

Location, date and time: Johor Strait, Pulau Ubin, Jelutong bridge; 31 January 2026; around 1009 hrs.

Habitat: Mangrove estuary with muddy bottom and rock rubble.

Observers: Aidan Raphael Keh and Julian Sim.

Observation: One example of 116 mm standard length (from snout tip to caudal fin base) (Figs. 1 & 2) was caught on a sabiki rig baited with whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*), from a depth of around 2 m. It was caught alongside other estuarine fishes, notably *Gerres shima* and juvenile *Pomadasyds auritus* (family Haemulidae).



Fig 1: Ex-situ lateral view of the *Gerres limbatus* in life.

Fig. 2. Dorsolateral view of live *Gerres limbatus* showing the dark saddle blotches along its back.

(Photographs by: Aidan Raphael Keh)

Remarks: *Gerres limbatus* was recorded in Singapore by Károli (1882) and Fowler (1931 as *Gerres lucidus*). There was apparently no subsequent record until the present observation (see Ng et al., 2015; Jaafar et al., 2024). According to Iwatsuki et al. (2001), *Gerres limbatus* differs from its congeners in having 2½–3 scales between the 5th dorsal fin spine base and the lateral line (see Fig. 1), and four or five diffuse, dark saddle blotches along the back in life (Fig 2).

Literature cited:

- Fowler HW (1931) A small collection of fishes from Singapore. Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, 83: 443–448, 1 fig.
- Iwatsuki Y, Kimura S & Yoshino T (2001) *Gerres limbatus* Cuvier and *G. lucidus* Cuvier from the Indo-Malay Archipelagos, the latter corresponding to young of the former (Perciformes: Gerreidae). Ichthyological Research, 48(3): 307–314.
- Jaafar Z, Low JKY & Lim KKP (2024) Checklist of marine fish species with their category of threat status for Singapore. In: Davison GWH, Gan JWM, Huang D, Hwang WS, Lum SKY & Yeo DCJ (eds.) The Singapore Red Data Book. Red Lists of Singapore Biodiversity. Third edition. National Parks Board, Singapore, pp. 649–670.
- Károli J (1882) Prodromus piscium Asiae Orientalis a domine Joanne Xanthus annis 1868–70 collectorum. Természettudományi Füzetek, Budapest, 5: 147–187.
- Ng HH, Tan HH, Lim KKP, Ludt WB & Chakrabarty P (2015) Fishes of the eastern Johor Strait. Raffles Bulletin of Zoology, Supplement No. 31: 303–337.