

Biodiversity Record: New record of the coralgoby, *Gobiodon fuscoruber*, in Singapore.

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Subjects: Brown-red coralgoby, *Gobiodon fuscoruber* (Teleostei: Gobiiformes: Gobiidae).

Subjects identified by: Navaraj Rajendran and Zeehan Jaafar.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Pulau Biola; 15 January 2024; 1200–1300 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Fringing coral reef with sand-silt substrate, at a depth of approximately 4 m.

Observers: Navaraj Rajendran and Jaena Lau

Observation: Two individuals (Fig. 1) of total lengths 29.8 mm (specimen 1, Fig. 1A&B) and 31.1 mm (specimen 2, Fig. 1C&D) were found among branches of a living colony of *Acropora* coral (Figs. 2 & 3).

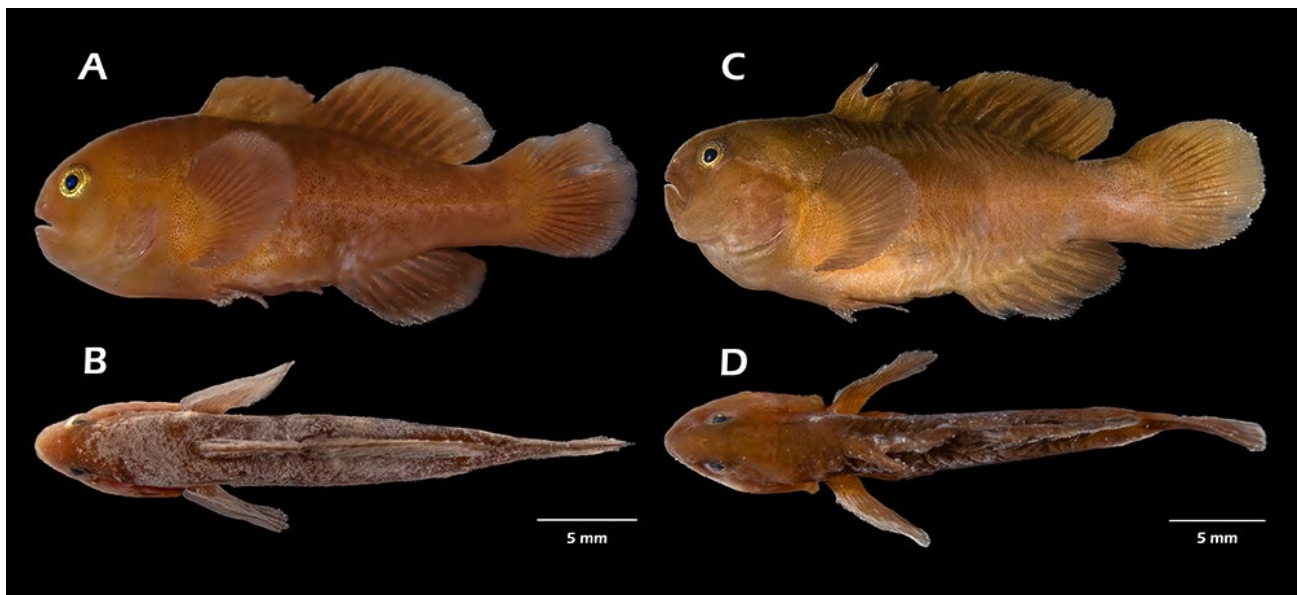


Fig. 1. *Gobiodon fuscoruber* — specimen 1: lateral (A) and dorso-ventral (B) views; specimen 2: lateral (C) and dorso-ventral (D) views (Photographs by: Navaraj Rajendran).

Remarks: The genus *Gobiodon* (Bleeker, 1856) comprises more than 30 species of obligate coral-dwelling fishes (Munday et al., 1997; Dirnwoeber & Herler, 2007; Eschmeyer et al. 2026). Six species had been recorded from Singapore (Larson et al. 2016), but only *Gobiodon histrio*, *Gobiodon quinquestrigatus*, and *Gobiodon heterospilos* are confirmed to occur (Jaafar et al., 2024). This represents the first record of *Gobiodon fuscoruber* Herler, Bogorodsky & Suzuki (2013) in Singapore’s territorial waters.

Gobiodon fuscoruber is distinguished from its congeners by its reddish-brown body speckled with tiny red spots, a light-blue or red-spotted outer margin of its iris, pale distal margin of the median fins, and a relatively slender caudal peduncle (Herler et al., 2013). Like all congeners, *Gobiodon fuscoruber* is strongly associated with branching scleractinian corals. This species has been reported to be associated with *Acropora millepora*, *Acropora nasuta*, *Acropora selago*, *Acropora acuminata*, and *Acropora hyacinthus* (see Allen & Erdmann, 2025; Hildebrandt et al., 2025). In Singapore, the host species is likely to be *Acropora valida* (Figs. 3 & 4). *Gobiodon fuscoruber* is widely

distributed in the Indo-Pacific including the Red Sea, Maldives, Indonesia, Japan and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia (Herler et al., 2013; Allen & Erdmann, 2025). Its occurrence in Singapore waters is not unexpected.

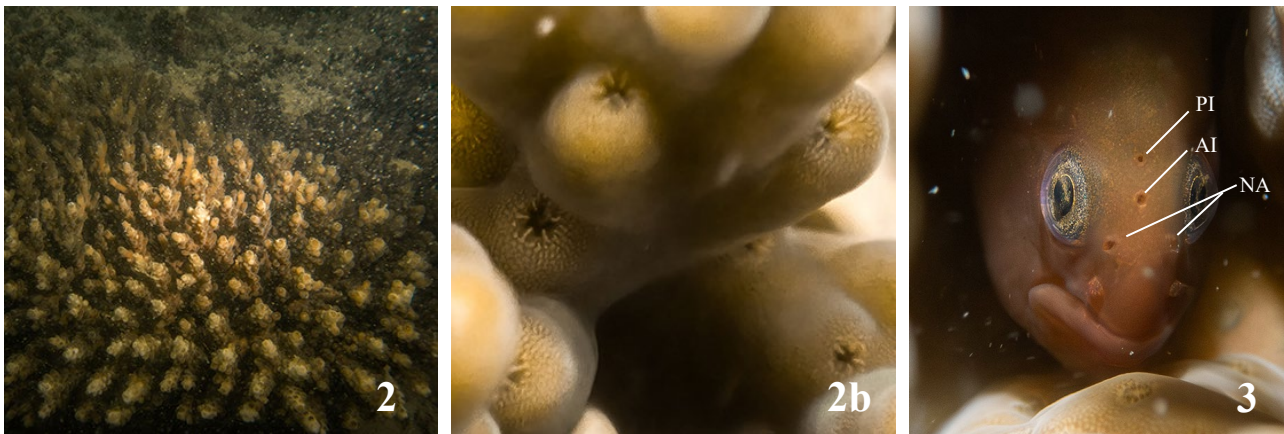


Fig. 2. *Acropora* sp. colony where the specimens were found (a). Close-up of corallite (b). Fig. 3. Frontal view of the head of a *Gobiodon fuscoruber* in-situ showing anterior oculoscapular pores with paired nasal pores (NA), as well as unpaired anterior interorbital pore (AI) and posterior interorbital pore (PI) (Photographs by: Navaraj Rajendran).

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