

Biodiversity Record: New record of the dartfish, *Parioglossus rainfordi*, in Singapore

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Subjects: Rainford's dartfish, *Parioglossus rainfordi* (Teleostei: Gobiiformes: Microdesmidae).

Subjects identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim and Daisuke Taira.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Pulau Hantu; 4 March 2026; around 1324 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Mangrove patch on sand substrate. At around 1.1 m depth.

Observer: Yan Le Su.

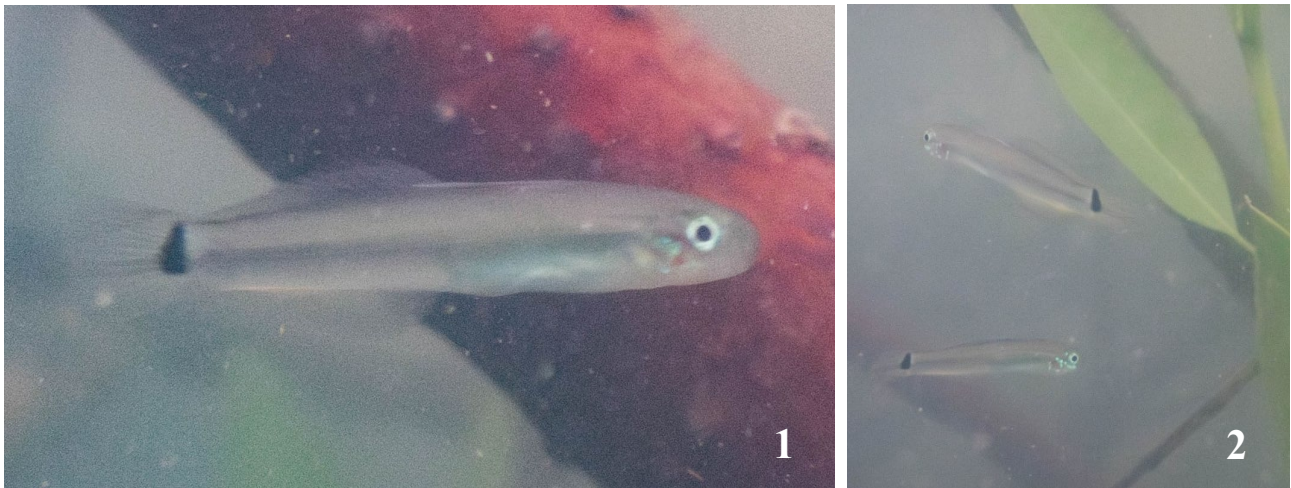


Fig. 1. In-situ lateral view of one of the subjects. Fig. 2. In-situ lateral view of two *Parioglossus rainfordi* next to submerged mangrove foliage. (Photographs by Yan Le Su).

Observation: At least three examples, each around 4 cm total length (Figs. 1 & 2), were encountered hovering in midwater among mangrove prop roots and submerged foliage.

Remarks: *Parioglossus rainfordi* is herein documented as a new record for Singapore (see Larson et al., 2016; Jaafar et al., 2024). This is the third species of *Parioglossus* known to occur in Singapore. The other two are the Philippine dartfish (*Parioglossus philippinus*) which inhabits coral reef (Taira, 2020), and the tailspot dartfish (*Parioglossus palustris*) which inhabits estuarine mangrove (Lim et al., 2017; Ong, 2025).

Parioglossus rainfordi reaches a maximum size of 4.5 cm total length. It is distinguished from congeners by having a large black bar on the upper two-thirds of its caudal peduncle, and a broad dusky stripe from pectoral fin base to lower caudal peduncle and onto the middle of the caudal fin. It is gregarious and tends to aggregate among mangrove roots. The species has been recorded from southern Japan down through the Philippines to New Guinea, Pohnpei, New Caledonia and northern Australia (Allen & Erdmann, 2024).

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