

Biodiversity Record: Occurrence of the whipray, *Pateobatis uarnacoides*, in Singapore

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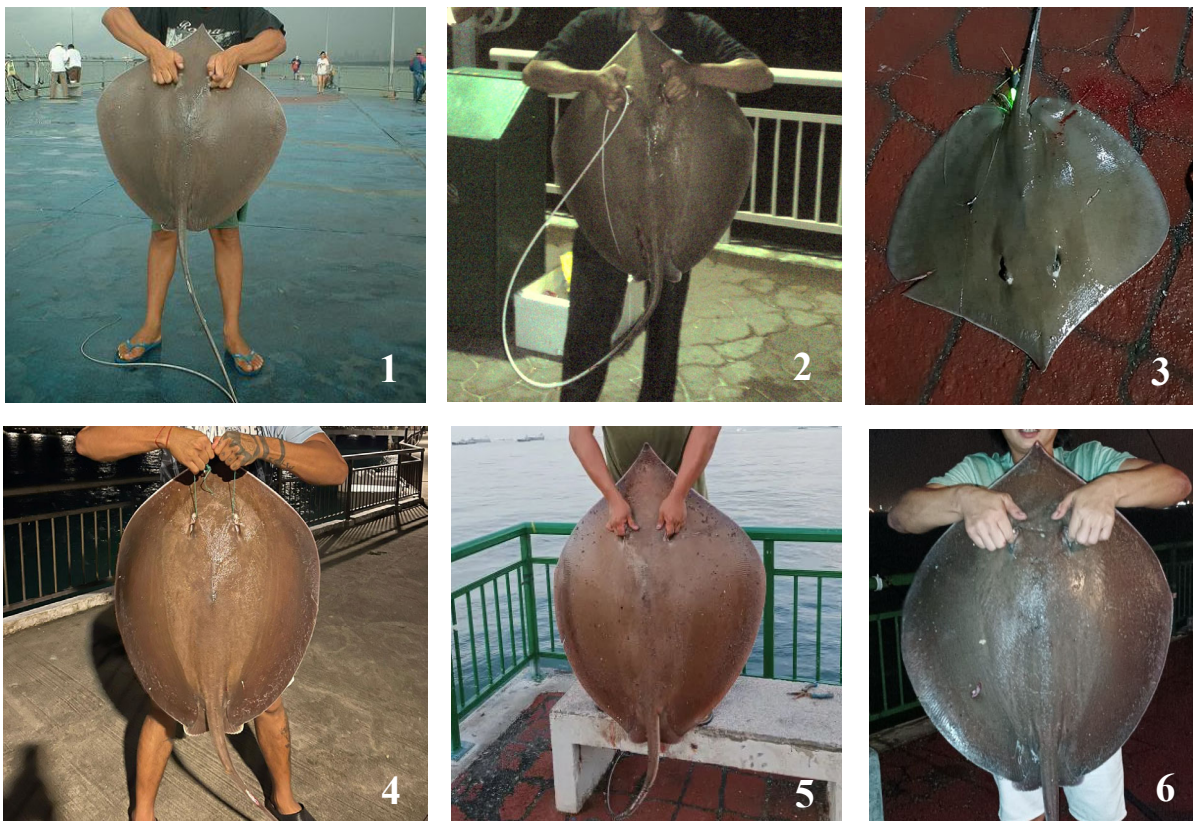
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Subjects: Whitenose whipray, *Pateobatis uarnacoides* (Elasmobranchii: Myliobatiformes: Dasyatidae).

Subjects identified by: Maryam Saleel Kolakkodan, Christina Choy, Naomi Clark-Shen, Kathy Xu and Zeehan Jaafar.

Locations and dates: Singapore Strait at Bedok Jetty and Labrador Jetty; 2007, 2010, 2019, 2022 and 2024.

Habitats: Marine. Bedok Jetty – shallow coastal sea with sandy-silt substrate and interspersed seagrass communities. Labrador Jetty – shallow coastal sea with rocky-sandy substrate and coral reef and seagrass communities.



Figs. 1–6. *Pateobatis uarnacoides* individuals hooked by anglers in the Singapore Strait. Fig. 1. Bedok Jetty on 16 June 2007. Fig. 2. Bedok Jetty on 14 December 2010. Fig. 3. Bedok Jetty on 9 April 2019. Fig. 4. Labrador Jetty on 27 November 2022. Fig. 5. Bedok Jetty on 1 October 2022. Fig. 6. Bedok Jetty on 8 September 2024. (Photographs obtained from various publicly accessible online platforms).

Observations: Six individuals were identified through images and catch reports uploaded by anglers onto online platforms between the years 2007 and 2024. These large rays had been hooked and landed at Bedok Jetty and Labrador Jetty. The largest individual (Fig. 5) was reported to weigh 26 kg.

Bedok Jetty — one on 16 June 2007 at 0930 hrs (Fig 1), one on 14 December 2010 (Fig. 2), one on 9 April 2019 (Fig. 3), one on 1 October 2022 at 0900 hrs (Fig. 5), and one on 8 September 2024 at 0120 hrs (Fig. 6).

Labrador Jetty — one example on 27 November 2022 (Fig. 4).

Remarks: The genus *Pateobatis* (see Last et al., 2016a) comprises five medium- to large-sized ray species. The distribution ranges of three of these five species include the territorial waters of Singapore (see Last et al., 2016b) yet this genus had never been reported locally (see Jaafar et al., 2024). These six records thus represent the first verified observations of *Pateobatis uarnacoides* in Singapore.

Described locally as ‘longtail brown stingrays’, this species is occasionally captured by recreational anglers. While we did not have access to these specimens, we were able to confirm the identities of photographed individuals (see Figs. 1–6) as *Pateobatis uarnacoides* based on a suite of characters for this species. These include large, plain-coloured rounded disc with a long, pointed snout; well-defined denticle band; round pelvic fins; and characteristically long whip-like tail beyond the caudal sting (see Last et al., 2016b). Other than being host to a variety of endo- and ecto-parasites (see Isa & Martin, 2022), little else is known of the biology and ecology of this globally endangered species (see Sherman et al., 2020).

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