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# Biodiversity Record: Another species of the nudibranch genus *Phestilla* in Singapore

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**Subjects:** *Phestilla* sp. (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Nudibranchia: Trinchesiidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Chay Hoon Toh, Jianlin Liu and Hsini Lin.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Strait, Sisters Islands Marine Park, lagoon of Big Sister Island; 17 February 2026; around 1845 and 1900 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Intertidal zone of a coral reef. On *Porites* corals.

**Observers:** Chay Hoon Toh and Jianlin Liu.

**Observations:** Two examples (Figs. 1 & 2), one about 5 mm, the other about 4 mm (total length), were observed on separate broken pieces of *Porites* coral. The second individual was with an egg mass (Fig. 2).


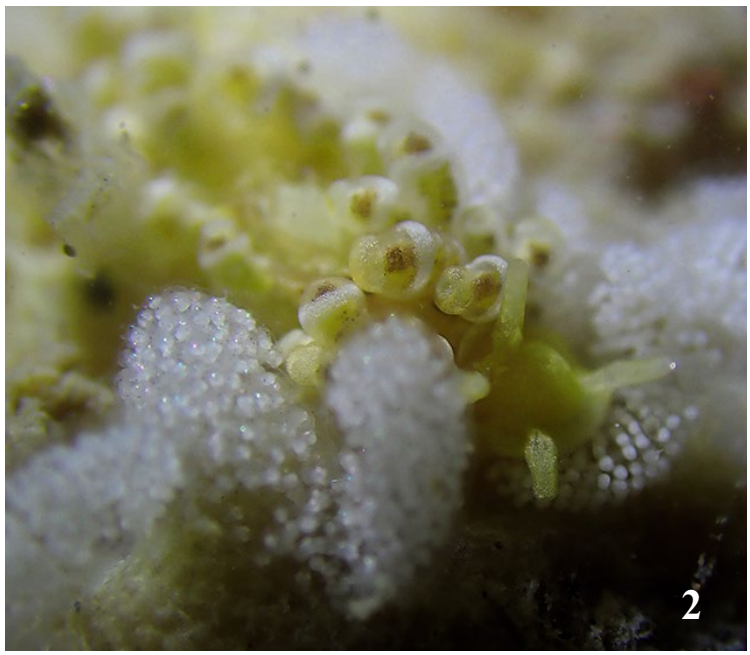


Fig. 1. In-situ dorsal view of the first subject. (Photograph by: Chay Hoon Toh). Fig. 2. In-situ dorso-lateral view of the second subject with an egg mass. (Photograph by: Jianlin Liu).

**Remarks:** The species of the genus *Phestilla* hitherto recorded from Singapore are *Phestilla fuscostriata*, *Phestilla lugubris*, *Phestilla melanobrachia* (e.g., Tan & Woo, 2010, and references therein cited; Chew, 2021; Mark et al., 2025), and an unverified *Phestilla subodiosa* reported in Wang et al. (2020) that was based on Robertson (1970). The featured animals are not conspecific with any of the aforementioned. These nudibranchs, found on corals of the genus *Porites*, apparently feed on the polyps of their hosts.

The featured animals look very similar to an un-named *Tenellia* species illustrated in Gosliner et al. (2018: 300, as *Tenellia* sp. 82). It should be noted that the generic assignments within its family Trinchesiidae remains contentious. Herein, we consider the genus *Phestilla* distinct from *Tenellia* following Korshunova et al. (2025) (see also discussion in Mehrota et al., 2020).

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