

Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the nudibranch, *Phestilla viei*

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Subjects: *Phestilla viei* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Nudibranchia: Trinchetiidae).

Subjects identified by: Toh Chay Hoon.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Sisters Islands Marine Park, Dive Trail, 26 May 2018; around 1230 hrs.

Habitat: Marine; coral reef, at depth of 5m, on hard coral *Pavona explanulata*.

Observer: Toh Chay Hoon.

Observation: Two examples of about 15mm total length were observed on a colony of hard coral, *Pavona explanulata* (Fig. 1). There were many egg masses, presumed to be theirs, in the immediate vicinity.



Fig. 1. In-situ dorsal view of one of the subjects. (Photograph by: Toh Chay Hoon).

Remarks: The featured animals appear identical to the ‘*Tenellia* sp. 83’ figured in Gosliner et al. (2018), which was subsequently described from Koh Tao, Thailand, as *Phestilla viei* by Mehrota et al. (2020). This appears to be the first published record of this species from Singapore (see Toh & Liu, 2026).



Fig. 2. In-situ dorsal view of two *Phestilla viei* with egg masses on *Pavona explanulata* coral. (Photograph by: Toh Chay Hoon)

Literature cited:

- Gosliner TM, Valdés Á & Behrens DW (2018) *Nudibranch & Sea Slug Identification Indo-Pacific*. Second edition. New World Publications Inc., Jacksonville, Florida, USA, 451 pp.
- Mehrotra R, Arnold S, Wang A, Chavanich S, Hoeksema BW & Caballer M (2020) A new species of coral-feeding nudibranch (Mollusca: Gastropoda) from the Gulf of Thailand. *Marine Biodiversity*, 50: 36: 1–18.
- Toh CH & Liu J (2026) Biodiversity Record: Another species of the nudibranch genus *Phestilla* in Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*, 19: e2026054. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2026-0054