

Biodiversity Record: Confirmed occurrence of the damselfish, *Pristotis obtusirostris*, in Singapore

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Subject: Gulf damselfish, *Pristotis obtusirostris* (Teleostei: Blenniiformes: Pomacentridae).

Subject identified by: Jiayuan Lin.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, East Coast Park, Bedok Jetty; 28 June 2026; around 1220 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coastal sea off concrete jetty with silty seabed and sparse coral rubble.

Observer: Cheong Song En Andriel.

Observation: One example (Fig. 1) of about 6 cm total length was obtained from a depth of around 4 m with hook-and-line baited with prawn (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) meat.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of live *Pristotis obtusirostris* shortly after capture. (Photograph by: Cheong Song En Andriel).

Remarks: This confirms the occurrence of *Pristotis obtusirostris* in Singapore. This species was listed as occurring in Singapore without reference to specimens or photographs by Sin et al. (1994) as *Pristotis jerdoni*, and classified as locally ‘endangered’ by Ng et al. (1994). The South China Sea around Horsburgh Lighthouse was the nearest location to Singapore where this damselfish was recorded (Sinoda et al., 1978, as *Daya jerdonii*). The species is not included in the latest edition of the Singapore Red Data Book (Jaafar et al., 2024).

Pristotis obtusirostris is known to attain a maximum total length of 13 cm. It occurs in groups over flat sand or rubble substrates around coral or rock outcrops at depths of 5 to 80 metres. It is widely distributed in the Indo-west Pacific from the Persian Gulf eastwards through Indonesia to Vanuatu, New Caledonia and eastern Australia, and northwards through the Philippines to the Ryukyu Islands of Japan (Allen & Erdmann, 2024).

Literature cited:

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