

Biodiversity Record: Fusilier fishes of the genus *Pterocaesio* from Singapore

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Subjects: Goldband fusilier, *Pterocaesio chrysozona* (Teleostei: Acanthuriformes: Lutjanidae);
Double-lined fusilier, *Pterocaesio digramma* (Teleostei: Acanthuriformes: Lutjanidae);
Onestripe fusilier, *Pterocaesio* cf. *tessellata* (Teleostei: Acanthuriformes: Lutjanidae).

Subjects identified by: Aidan Raphael Keh and Lin Jiayuan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Saint John's Island, off causeway to Lazarus Island; 14 June 2026 at around 1213–1432 hrs and 18 June 2026 at around 1225 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Shallow rocky reef at approximately 4 m depth.

Observers: Brian Sng (on 14 June 2026), Aidan Raphael Keh (on 18 June 2026), Andriel S. E. Cheong (20 June 2026) and Adib Adris (20 June 2026).

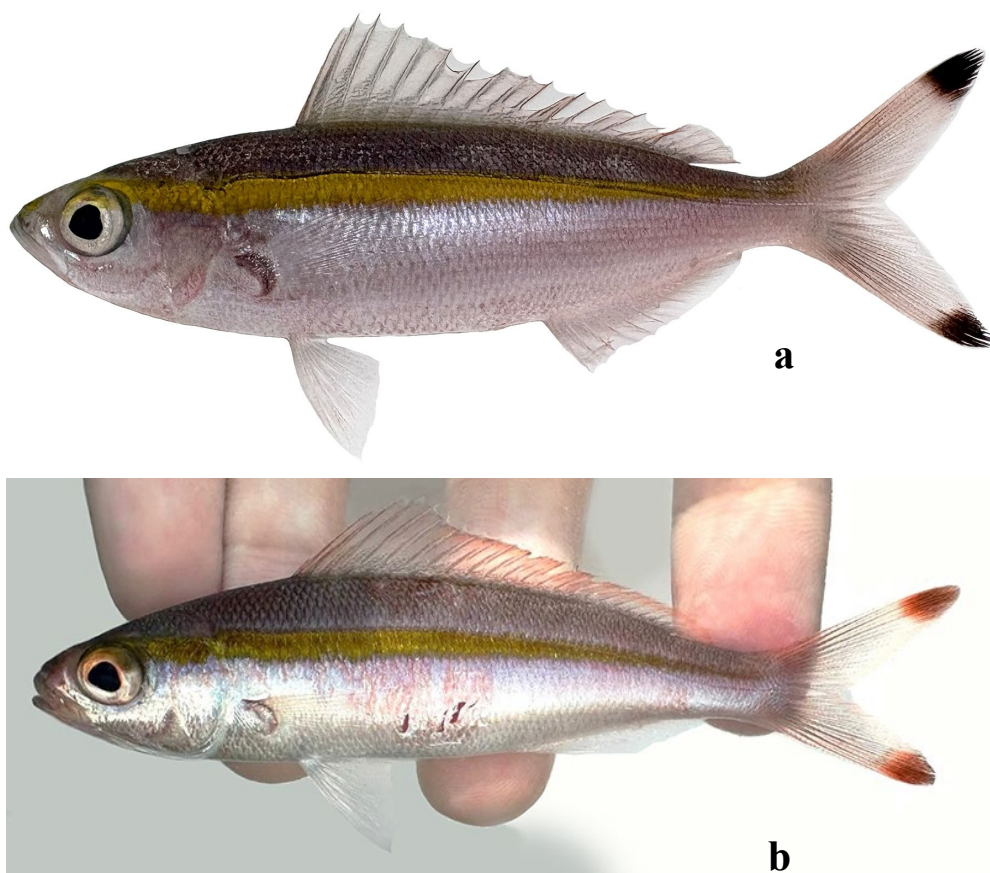


Fig. 1. Lateral views of two of three specimens of *Pterocaesio chrysozona* collected on 14 June 2026 (ZRC 70297) — a) freshly dead example of 7.6 cm SL (Photograph by: Kelvin K. P. Lim) and b) live example of 7.1 cm SL (Photograph by: Brian Sng).

Observations: The following specimens taken by hook-and-line were donated to the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore, where they have been catalogued and preserved as reference material. SL refers to standard length, which is measured from tip of snout to base of caudal fin.

On 14 June 2026, the following specimens were obtained — three *Pterocaesio chrysozona* (ZRC 70297) of 7.6 cm SL (Fig. 1a), 7.3 cm SL and 7.1 cm SL (Fig. 1b) and one *Pterocaesio* cf. *tessellata* (ZRC 70298) of 8.4 cm SL (Fig. 3) were caught at 1213 hrs and thereafter on apollo rig baited with whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*); one *Pterocaesio digramma* (ZRC 70296) of 9 cm SL (Fig. 2) was caught on a sabiki rig, also baited with whiteleg shrimp at around 1432 hrs, All were caught among a school of the demoiselle, *Neopomacentrus anabatoides* and the ponyfish, *Karalla daura*, near the bottom of the water column.

On 18 June 2026, a *Pterocaesio* cf. *tessellata* (ZRC 70393) of 8.4 cm SL (Fig. 4) was caught on a sabiki rig at the same location, at 1225hrs.

On 20 June 2026, a *Pterocaesio digramma* (ZRC 70440) of 10.3 cm SL was caught at around 1445 hrs by Adib Adris. On the same day, a *Pterocaesio chrysozona* (ZRC 70308) of 6.8 cm SL was caught by Andriel S. E. Cheong.



Fig. 2. Lateral view of live *Pterocaesio digramma* of 9 cm SL collected on 14 June 2026 (ZRC 70296). The black spot at the axil of the pectoral fin is visible only when the pectoral fin is pressed forward. (Photograph by: Brian Sng).

Fig. 3. Lateral view of freshly dead *Pterocaesio* cf. *tessellata* of 8.4 cm SL collected on 14 June 2026 (ZRC 70298). (Photograph by: Kelvin K. P. Lim).

Fig. 4. Lateral view of live *Pterocaesio* cf. *tessellata* of 8.4 cm SL collected on 18 June 2026 (ZRC 70393). (Photograph by: Aidan Raphael Keh).

Remarks: *Pterocaesio chrysozona* and *Pterocaesio digramma* were apparently first recorded in Singapore by Weber & de Beaufort (1936 as *Caesio chrysozona* and *Caesio digramma*). Both were also sold in local fish markets (Tweedie, 1940, as *Caesio chrysozonus*; Senta & Tan, 1975, as *Caesio chrysozonus* and *Caesio digramma*), but there is a possibility that these were not obtained in Singapore waters. A *Pterocaesio digramma* was taken in a net in Singapore in the 1930s (Herre & Myers, 1937, as *Caesio digramma*). The featured records confirm the occurrence of the two species in Singapore. *Pterocaesio* cf. *tessellata* is herein regarded as a new record for Singapore (see Fowler, 1938; Jaafar et al., 2024). A fourth species, *Pterocaesio pisang* (banana fusilier), was previously recorded from Singapore by Herre (1940, as *Caesio pisang*). However, the species has not been reported from the country since.

According to Carpenter (1988), *Pterocaesio chrysozona*, *Pterocaesio digramma*, and *Pterocaesio tessellata* are striped and the tips of their caudal fin are black. *Pterocaesio chrysozona* has a bright yellow stripe directly below the lateral line from behind the eye to the base of its caudal fin. This is 2 or 3 scales wide anteriorly, tapering to 1 scale in width on the caudal peduncle where it is above the lateral line. There is a less conspicuous stripe along the dorsal midline. *Pterocaesio tessellata* has a single yellow longitudinal stripe, about 1 scale wide, covering the lateral line for most of its length, usually running dorsal to lateral line on the caudal peduncle. The two examples herein featured as *Pterocaesio* cf. *tessellata* differ in having a thicker stripe that is about 2 scales wide (see Figs. 3 & 4). *Pterocaesio digramma* has two yellow lateral stripes. The lower stripe runs from behind the upper orbit below the lateral line to a vertical at about the middle of the soft portion of the dorsal fin, where it crosses and usually passes above the lateral line for the length of the caudal peduncle. The upper stripe runs one to two scales below the dorsal profile for most of the body's length, and ending dorsally on the caudal peduncle. *Pterocaesio pisang* also has black-tipped caudal fin lobes, but is distinguished from the three aforementioned congeners in lacking lateral stripes on its body.

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