

A juvenile longhorn cowfish

Subject: Longhorn cowfish, *Lactoria cornuta* (Teleostei: Ostraciidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Western Johor Strait, Tuas area; 0700-0800 hrs, 29 April 2017.

Habitat: Marine. In pool of water with sandy substrate on exposed intertidal flats at low tide.

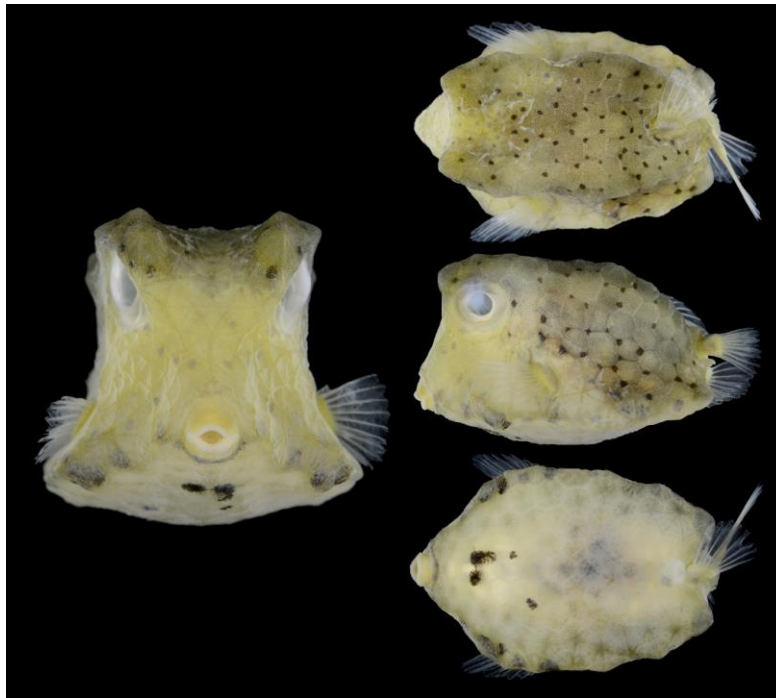
Observers: Lee Bee Yan & Jeremy W. L. Yeo.

Observation: A juvenile example of about 3 cm standard length (tip of snout to base of caudal fin) was obtained in a shallow tide pool during low tide (see accompanying pictures).

Remarks: The longhorn cowfish is found throughout the tropical Indo-Pacific from the Red Sea and East Africa, through the East Indies, to Australia and the Mariana, Marquesas and Tuamotu Islands, and northwards to Japan (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 1081). This species is occasionally encountered in Singapore waters (see e.g. Yeo, 2013). A knob in front of each eye, and at each side of the rear lower portion of the body are features that identify the featured individual as a juvenile cowfish. Horns are not present in the smallest fish of around 1.5 cm which are yellow with dark spots (Sadovy & Cornish, 2000: 280).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume III*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. pp. 856-1292.
Sadovy, Y. & A. S. Cornish, 2000. *Reef Fishes of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong University Press. xi + 321 pp.
Yeo, R., 2013. Longhorn cowfish at Semakau. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 75.



Lactoria cornuta, juvenile of 3 cm standard length, showing (from top right) dorsal, lateral and ventral views, with a frontal view on the left side. Composite of photographs by Tan Heok Hui

Contributor: **Tan Heok Hui**
Contact address: heokhui@nus.edu.sg