

New record of velvetfish *Paraploactis* sp. in the Singapore Straits

Subject: Velvetfish, *Paraploactis* sp. (Teleostei: Aploactinidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, off Little Sister Island; 15 October 2013; 1350 hrs.

Habitat: Coral reef, on seabed at around 10 m depth.

Observer: Vincent Choo.

Observation: An individual of about 10 cm total length was found lying on the seabed.

Remarks: As the specimen was not collected, it is not possible to examine certain morphological characters required to identify the species (see: Poss, 1999; Prokofiev, 2012). This is an exceptionally pale individual, and it represents the first record of the genus *Paraploactis* in Singapore waters (Ng et al., 2011: 497).

References:

Ng, P. K. L., R. T. Corlett & H. T. W. Tan (eds.), 2011. *Singapore Biodiversity. An Encyclopedia of the Natural Environment and Sustainable Development*. Editions Didier Millet and the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Singapore. 552 pp.

Poss, S. G., 1999. Aploactinidae. Velvetfishes. p. 2354-2358. In: Carpenter, K. E. & V. H. Niem (eds.). *FAO Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes. The Living Marine Resources of the Western Central Pacific. Vol. 4. Bony Fishes part 2 (Mugilidae to Carangidae)*. FAO, Rome. p. 2069-2790.

Prokofiev, A. M., 2012. Genus *Paraploactis* in the fauna of Vietnam with a discussion of systematic of the *P. kagoshimensis*-complex (Scorpaeniformes: Aploactinidae). *Journal of Ichthyology*. 52(5): 321-337.



Photographs by Vincent Choo

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