

New record of many-eyed flounder in Singapore

Subject: Many-eyed flounder, *Grammatobothus polyophthalmus* (Teleostei: Bothidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, Cyrene Reef; 9 May 2008; 0700 hrs.

Habitat: Marine, on a sandy area of the coral reef flat.

Observer: Ria Tan.

Observation: An individual of around 4 cm total length was found on a patch of sand during the morning low tide.

Remarks: This is the first record of *Grammatobothus polyophthalmus* from Singapore waters, and only the third species of Bothid flounder known from there. *Engyprosopon mogkii* was recorded by Bleeker (1860: 101, as *Achirus mogki*) and the occurrence of *Bothus mancus* was based on a photograph in Debelius (2001: 232).

From other flounders in the Sunda region, *Grammatobothus polyophthalmus* is distinguished by the following characters: eyes on the left side; no lateral line under the lower eye; body deeply ovoid, its depth 1.5 to 1.8 times in its standard length; dorsal fin with second to tenth rays elongated; eyed side of body pale brown with three large and prominent ocelli, the anterior two on the front half of the body, one each above and below the pectoral fin, the third on the rear half over the straight section of the lateral line; caudal fin separate from the dorsal and anal fins. This species is known to inhabit mud, sand and rubble substrates at depths from 0 down to 90 m. It is distributed from the coasts of India and Sri Lanka, across the South China Sea, southwards to the northern coast of Australia, and northwards to the Ryukyu Islands (Hensley & Amaoka, 2001: 3824).



Photograph by Ria Tan

References:

- Bleeker, P., 1860. Vischsoorten nieuw voor de kennis der fauna van Singapoera. *Natuurkundig Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsche-Indie*. 22: 101-102.
- Debelius, H., 2001. *Asia Pacific Reef Guide*. IKAN-Unterwasserarchiv, Frankfurt, Germany. 321 pp.
- Hensley, D. A. & K. Amaoka, 2001. Bothidae. In: Carpenter, K. E. & V. H. Niem (eds.). *FAO Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes. The Living Marine Resources of the Western Central Pacific. Volume 6. Bony fishes part 4 (Labridae to Latimeriidae), estuarine crocodiles, sea turtles, sea snakes and marine mammals*. FAO, Rome. pp. 3799-3841.

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