

## Bearded leatherjacket from Changi

**Subject:** Bearded leatherjacket, *Anacanthus barbatus* (Teleostei: Monacanthidae).

**Subject identified by:** Tan Heok Hui.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, beach at Changi Point; 24 October 2014; afternoon.

**Habitat:** Estuarine. Coastal mud and silt flats, between 0.5 to 1.5 m depth.

**Observer:** Lee Bee Yan.

**Observation:** Two individuals of 101.4 and 115.4 mm standard length were obtained with a beach seine. Both were deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection (under catalogue number ZRC 54633) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore.

**Remarks:** The bearded leatherjacket was originally described from Singapore by Gray (1830-35). Unlike most other monacanthids which are rhomboid in shape, it has a very slender, laterally compressed body and a prominent pointed fleshy protruberance from its lower jaw (see accompanying photograph). Growing to a maximum recorded size of 30 cm, it is generally brownish with white stripes on the body, but mottled brown reticulation pattern is also known and can be seen on the specimen illustrated here. This species inhabits open muddy bottoms of estuaries and coastal bays, and appears to mimic mangrove propagule shoots, sea-pens and probably sea-grass (Allen & Erdmann, 2012). *Anacanthus barbatus* was previously recorded from Changi Point Beach by Kwik et al. (2010).

### References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies*. Volume I. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. pp. 1-424.
- Gray, J. E. 1830-35. *Illustrations of Indian zoology; chiefly selected from the collection of Major-General Hardwicke*. Treuttel, Wurtz, Treuttel & Richter, London & Parbury, Allen and Co., London. 20 parts in 2 vols. Pls. 1-202.
- Kwik, J. T. B., P. Z. Chen, P. K. L. Ng & T. M. Sin, 2010. Diel variations and diversity of fish communities along the unreclaimed shallow coastal habitats of Changi Point beach, Singapore. *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. 58 (1): 125-135.



Lateral view of 115.4 mm SL *Anacanthus barbatus* (ZRC 54633) with its head pointing to the left. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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