

## Biodiversity Record: New record of the puffer filefish, *Brachaluteres taylori*, in Singapore

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**Recommended citation.** Toh CH & Lim KKP (2021) Biodiversity Record: New record of the puffer filefish, *Brachaluteres taylori*, in Singapore. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021022. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2021-0022

**Subject:** Taylor's puffer filefish, *Brachaluteres taylori* (Teleostei: Tetraodontiformes: Monacanthidae).

**Subject identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Strait off Pulau Hantu, north jetty; 13 March 2021; 1915 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Coral reef, at a depth of around 15 m.

**Observer:** Toh Chay Hoon.

**Observation:** One example of about 5 cm in total length was observed swimming about in the open (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. In situ views of *Brachaluteres taylori* at Pulau Hantu. a, postero-lateral view of the fish's right side; b, lateral view of the right side; c, postero-lateral view of the left side with abdomen slightly inflated. (Photographs by: Toh Chay Hoon).

**Remarks:** This small (up to 6.2 cm in total length) filefish has a round, laterally compressed body, and is able to inflate its abdomen like a pufferfish (see Fig. 1c). The body colour varies from yellowish green to grey, with horizontal rows of brown to white spots and narrow dark lines on the head and body. It inhabits coastal reefs, seagrass areas and soft bottoms at depths between 8 and 45 m, and tends to be solitary. The species occurs in the western Pacific, and is known from Indonesia (Bali and Sulawesi), New Guinea, the Philippines, eastern Australia and the Marshall Islands (Hutchins, 2001: 3938; Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 1071). The featured observation is the first record of *Brachaluteres taylori* in Singapore (see Wang & Lim, 2011: 312), and seems to represent a westward range extension for this species.

### Literature cited:

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- Wang LK & Lim KKP (2011) Filefish family Monacanthidae. In: Ng PKL, Corlett RT & Tan HTW (eds.) Singapore Biodiversity. An Encyclopedia of the Natural Environment and Sustainable Development. Editions Didier Millet in association with the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Singapore, p. 312.