

Biodiversity Record: New record of the tailmark wrasse, *Leptojulius urostigma*, in Singapore

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Subjects: Tailmark wrasse, *Leptojulius urostigma* (Teleostei: Labridae).

Subjects identified by: Zeehan Jaafar and Chloe Y. Y. Tan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait –

- 1) off Kusu Island; 12 September 2020; 1000–1200 hrs.
- 2) off Pulau Jong; 13 September 2020; 1000–1200 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Fringing coral reef with silty substrate. At depths of 5.4, 13 and 13.7 m.

Observers: Chloe Y. Y. Tan and Zeehan Jaafar, from footage generated by Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) experiments.

Observations: Three solitary and apparently different individuals were identified from BRUV footage recorded over two days on three separate occasions between 1000 and 1200 hrs.

- a) The first example was recorded off Kusu Island, at 13 m depth on 12 September 2020. It briefly swam into the field of view of the video camera, in front of some gorgonians (Fig. 1).
- b) The second example was also recorded off Kusu Island on 12 September 2020, at another BRUV station at 13.7 m depth (Fig. 2).
- c) The third example was recorded off Pulau Jong on 13 September 2020, at 5.4 m depth (Fig. 3).

Remarks: The genus *Leptojulius* comprises five species that are distributed throughout the Indo-West Pacific. They are *Leptojulius chrysotaenia*, *Leptojulius cyanopleura*, *Leptojulius lambdastigma*, *Leptojulius polylepis* and *Leptojulius urostigma* (Randall, 1996). Before the present record, only *Leptojulius cyanopleura* was known to occur within the territorial waters of Singapore (Low & Koh, 2016). The featured underwater images of *Leptojulius urostigma* represent the first record of this species in Singapore.

Leptojulius urostigma is distinguished from its congeners by the presence of a black or brown spot at the base of the caudal fin (Allen & Erdmann, 2012). As this species is known to occur in the South China Sea (Randall & Lim, 2000), its presence in Singapore is unsurprising. *Leptojulius urostigma* occurs solitarily or in small groups in areas with silty substrate, at a depth range of 7–30 m (Allen & Erdmann, 2012). They are meso-predators that feed on soft-bodied invertebrates, small crustaceans and small fishes (Randall, 1996).

Literature cited:

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- Randall JE (1996) Second revision of the labrid fish genus *Leptojulius*, with descriptions of two new species. Indo-Pacific Fishes, 24: 1–20.
- Randall JE & Lim KKP (2000) A checklist of the fishes of the South China Sea. The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology, Supplement 8: 569–667.



Fig. 1. The first example of *Leptojulius urostigma* at 13 m off Kusu Island. (Screen capture of BRUV footage by: Chloe Y. Y. Tan & Zeehan Jaafar).



Fig. 2. The second example of *Leptojulius urostigma* at 13.7 m off Kusu Island. (Screen capture of BRUV footage by: Chloe Y. Y. Tan & Zeehan Jaafar).



Fig. 3. The third *Leptojulius urostigma* individual at 5.4 m off Pulau Jong. (Screen capture of BRUV footage by: Chloe Y. Y. Tan & Zeehan Jaafar).