

## Biodiversity Record: Rediscovery of the goby, *Palutrus scapulopunctatus*, in Singapore

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**Subject:** Scapular goby, *Palutrus scapulopunctatus* (Teleostei: Gobiiformes: Gobiidae).

**Subject identified by:** Zeehan Jaafar.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Strait, Pulau Hantu; 4 June 2021; 1536 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Shallow fringing reef with silty substrate, near jetty.

**Observers:** Crystle Wee and Eng Guan Wee.

**Observation:** One example of about 20 mm total length was observed at a depth of 7 m (Fig. 1).

**Remarks:** *Palutrus scapulopunctatus* was first reported in Singapore by Herre & Myers (1937) based on a 24-mm specimen. There have been no other reports of this species within the territorial waters of Singapore since (see Larson et al., 2016). This report features the first photographic evidence of the species in Singapore waters. *Palutrus scapulopunctatus* occurs in shallow silty reefs throughout the Indo-Pacific region (Bogorodsky et al., 2010; Allen & Erdmann, 2012).

### Literature cited:

Allen GR & Erdmann MV (2012) Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume III. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia, pp. 857–1292.

Bogorodsky S, Kovačić M & Larson HK (2010) The first records of four gobies (Pisces: Gobiidae) in the Red Sea. Aqua, International Journal of Ichthyology, 16: 117–128.

Herre AW & Myers G (1937) A contribution to the ichthyology of the Malay Peninsula. Bulletin of Raffles Museum, Singapore, 13: 5–75.

Larson HK, Jaafar Z & Lim KKP (2016) An updated checklist of the gobioid fishes of Singapore. Raffles Bulletin of Zoology, Supplement 34: 744–757.



Fig. 1. Lateral profile of *Palutrus scapulopunctatus* resting on a silted rock, in situ. (Photograph by: Crystle Wee).