

Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the sandperch, *Parapercis diplospilus*

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Subjects: Doublespot sandperch, *Parapercis diplospilus* (Teleostei: Perciformes: Pinguipedidae).

Subjects identified by: Zeehan Jaafar and Charles Tan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off western side of Pulau Hantu; 10 May 2023; around 1000 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef. At about 12 m depth.

Observer: Zeehan Jaafar.

Observation: Two examples of about 10 and 12 cm total length (Fig. 1), were observed on the substrate.



Fig. 1. In-situ lateral view of one of the two *Parapercis diplospilus* on the seabed (Photograph by: Zeehan Jaafar).

Remarks: This represents the first record of *Parapercis diplospilus* in Singapore (see Fowler, 1938; Heng & Lim, 2013; Koh & Lim, 2014; Toh & Lim, 2015), but it is not unexpected, as the species is distributed in the western Pacific (South China Sea, Philippines, New Guinea, northern Australia) and south-eastern Indian Oceans (Allen & Erdmann, 2012; Larson et al., 2013; Matsunuma et al., 2016; Johnson & Motomura, 2017; Habib and Islam, 2020). The species inhabits open muddy bottoms in the vicinity of coral reefs in depths of 20 to 50 m (Allen & Erdmann, 2012). *Parapercis diplospilus* can be distinguished from all its congeners by a series of 8 to 9 large brown spots on the lower side of its body, and a pair of large blackish or dark-brown spots at the caudal fin base of its caudal fin (Allen & Erdmann, 2012).

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