

First Singapore record of the yellowbar parrotfish, *Scarus schlegeli*

Daisuke Taira

d.taira@u.nus.edu

Subjects: Yellowbar parrotfish, *Scarus schlegeli* (Teleostei: Scaridae);
Scribbleface parrotfish, *Scarus rivulatus* (Teleostei: Scaridae).

Subjects identified by: Daisuke Taira.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off western Pulau Hantu; 16 April 2018; at around 1100 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Along sloping riprap seawall, at around one metre depth.

Observer: Daisuke Taira.

Observation: One parrotfish of about 20 cm total length, herein identified as *Scarus schlegeli*, was recorded on a video footage by a 360 degree camera (Fig. 1, 2 & 3). It was swimming about just above granite boulders during high tide. At around the same time, the camera also captured a parrotfish (Fig. 4) that we are unable to identify without a sharper image, as well as a male scribbleface parrotfish (*Scarus rivulatus*) (Fig. 5).

Remarks: This seems to be the first record of *Scarus schlegeli* in Singapore (see Bleeker, 1861; Fowler, 1938; Low, 2013). This species grows to 38 cm total length. The male is dark green, lighter on the anterior back and upper head, with one or two yellow saddles below the middle of the dorsal fin and continued below as a pale bar. The female has 5 to 6 alternating dark grey-brown and whitish bars. (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 748; Fig. 1, 2 & 3). Initial phase individuals of *Scarus schlegeli* have 4 pale bars on the body, or may be uniformly dark. They are similar in appearance to the initial phases of three other parrotfishes in the area: *Chlorurus bleekeri*, *Chlorurus capistratoides* and *Chlorurus troschelii*. However, these three species have blunt (instead of angular) head profiles, mouth with broadly exposed dental plates (instead of largely covered by lips), pale caudal peduncles and wider pale bars. (Bellwood, 2001: 3490). The aforementioned three species of *Chlorurus* have not been reported from Singapore waters.

The scribbleface parrotfish (*Scarus rivulatus*) (Fig. 5) and the blue-barred parrotfish (*Scarus ghobban*), appear to be the two species most regularly seen in Singapore waters (Low, 2013: 35; personal observations).

References:

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- Bleeker, P. 1861. Mededeeling omtrent vischsoorten, nieuw voor de kennis der fauna van Singapoera. *Verlagen en Mededeelingen der Koninklijke Akademie van Wetenschappen, Letterkunde, en Schoone Kunsten te Amsterdam*. (1) 12: 28-63.
- Fowler, H. W., 1938. A list of the fishes known from Malaya. *Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore*. 1: 1-268.
- Low, J. K. Y., 2013. More noteworthy fishes observed in the Singapore Straits. *Nature in Singapore*. 6: 31-37.

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Fig. 1. Female *Scarus schlegeli*, lateral view swimming towards the left.



Fig. 2. Female *Scarus schlegeli* with head to the right.



Fig. 3. *Scarus schlegeli* turning towards the rear.

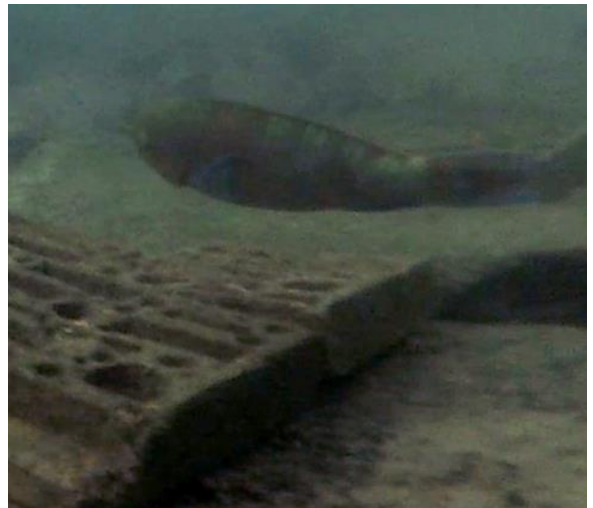


Fig. 4. Unidentified parrotfish swimming towards the left.



Fig. 5. Anterior part of a male *Scarus rivulatus* showing the orange cheek and green pectoral fin.

Images extracted from video footage recorded by Daisuke Taira