

Regal demoiselles in Sisters Islands Marine Park

Subject: Regal demoiselle, *Neopomacentrus cyanomos* (Teleostei: Pomacentridae).

Subject identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, Sisters Islands Marine Park, off Pulau Subar Laut; 21 May 2017; 1000-1230 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, at depth of about 3 to 4 m.

Observers: Tan Heok Hui and others.

Observation: More than 20 individuals were observed swimming about in open water (see accompanying pictures) alongside members of congeners *Neopomacentrus bankieri* and *Neopomacentrus filamentosus*.

Remarks: This may be the first time that fish identified as *Neopomacentrus cyanomos* is recorded from Singapore (see Fowler, 1938; Sin et al., 1994). As it does not appear to be a rare or inconspicuous (Tan Heok Hui, personal observations), it is possible that the species was previously misidentified. Congeners recorded from Singapore waters are the brown demoiselle (*Neopomacentrus filamentosus*), the Chinese demoiselle (*Neopomacentrus bankieri*) (Toh & Lim, 2014), and the silver demoiselle (*Neopomacentrus anabatooides*) (Lim, 2014). The distinct white blotch at the base of the soft dorsal fin readily distinguishes this species from its congeners in the region (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 606).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume II*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. p. 425-856.
- Fowler, H. W., 1938. A list of the fishes known from Malaya. *Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore*. 1: 1-268.
- Lim, K. K. P., 2014. Silver demoiselle in the Singapore Straits. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 216.
- Sin T. M., M. M. Teo, P. K. L. Ng, L. M. Chou & H. W. Khoo, 1994. The damselfishes (Pisces: Osteichthyes: Pomacentridae) of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore: systematics, ecology and conservation. *Hydrobiologia*. 285: 49-58.
- Toh C. H. & K. K. P. Lim, 2014. Aggregation of two species of demoiselle fishes at Pulau Hantu. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 71.



Lateral views of two individuals of regal demoiselle at different parts of the reef. The distinct white blotch at the base of the soft dorsal fin is diagnostic. The blackish 'ear' spot on the upper edge of the opercle appears greenish on the fish in the picture on the right. Photographs by Tan Heok Hui

Contributors: **Tan Heok Hui & Kelvin K. P. Lim**

Contact addresses: nhmthh@nus.edu.sg (Tan), nhmlimkp@nus.edu.sg (Lim)