

New record of the Cook's cardinalfish in Singapore

Tan Heok Hui & Kelvin K. P. Lim

heokhui@nus.edu.sg (Tan), nhmlimkp@nus.edu.sg (Lim)

Subject: Cook's cardinalfish, *Ostorhinchus cookii* (Teleostei: Apogonidae).

Subject identified by: Tan Heok Hui and Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait at Changi East; 17 January 2017, ca. 1900 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Artificial bay with sandy substrate surrounded by rock bunds. In shallow pools during low tide.

Observers: Tan Heok Hui and others.

Observation: An example of 62.1 mm standard length (measured from snout tip to caudal fin base) was found with other fishes in a tide pool. The accompanying picture shows a lateral view of the specimen, since preserved at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore, as ZRC 55714.

Remarks: This appears to be the first record of *Ostorhinchus cookii* in Singapore (see Ng & Lim, 2014). It is recognized by its distinctly round snout, and the presence of a dark mid-lateral stripe which ends in a round blotch at the caudal base (see Kuiter & Kozawa, 2019: 116). This species has a wide distribution in the Indo-west Pacific and its occurrence in Singapore waters is not unexpected.

References:

- Allen G.R. & Erdmann MV (2012) Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Vol. I. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. pp. 1-424.
- Kuiter RH & Kozawa T (2019) Cardinalfishes of the World. Second edition. Aquatic Photographics, Australia & Anthis (Nexus), Japan. II + 198 pp.
- Ng HH & Lim KKP (2014) A preliminary checklist of the cardinalfishes (Actinopterygii: Gobiformes: Apogonidae) of Singapore. Check List, 10 (5): 1061-1070.



Lateral view of *Ostorhinchus cookii* (ZRC 55714) from Changi East. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui