

Biodiversity Record: Giant guitarfish landed at East Coast Park

Zeehan Jaafar

Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore 117543; Email: jaafarz@nus.edu.sg

Recommended citation. Jaafar Z (2021) Biodiversity Record: Giant guitarfish landed at East Coast Park. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021133. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2021-0133

Subject: Giant guitarfish, *Glaucostegus typus*
(Elasmobranchii: Rhinopristiformes: Glaucostegidae).

Subject identified by: Zeehan Jaafar.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off East Coast Park; 8 August 2021; 1430 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coastal sea with sandy substrate.

Observers: Anonymous anglers and Zeehan Jaafar.

Observation: One example of about 1.6 m total length and weighing 26 kg (Fig. 1) was hooked and landed in the afternoon by a group of anglers. As it suffered serious injuries when landed, the ray was retained for private consumption by the anglers, who also donated tissue samples to the National University of Singapore for DNA barcoding.

Remarks: The giant guitarfish was first reported (as *Rhinobatus armatus*) to occur in Singapore by Bleeker (1852). This benthic species is naturally distributed in the coastal waters of the Indo-west Pacific, the adults frequenting near-shore areas, presumably to forage and avoid predators (Last et al., 2016).

The present observation, supported by a relatively good photograph (Fig. 1), collection data and tissue samples, represents the first confirmed record of *Glaucostegus typus* in Singapore. It is based on a specimen that actually originated from within Singapore's port limits and not obtained from a market (market specimens can be caught outside Singapore's territorial waters). No specimen confirmed to be collected directly from Singapore is represented in the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore, or in other museums overseas.

Literature cited:

Bleeker P (1852) Bijdrage tot de kennis der ichthyologische fauna van Singapore. Natuurkundig Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsche Indië, 3: 51–86.

Last P, Naylor G, Séret B, White W, de Carvalho M & Stehmann M (eds.) (2016) Rays of the World. CSIRO Publishing, Australia, 790 pp.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the deceased *Glaucostegus typus* landed by a group of anglers at East Coast Park on 8 August 2021. (Photograph by an anonymous photographer).