

## Biodiversity Record: First Singapore record of the yellowtail wrasse, *Anampses meleagrides*

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**Recommended citation.** Lin J (2023) Biodiversity Record: First Singapore record of the yellowtail wrasse, *Anampses meleagrides*. Nature in Singapore, 16: e2023002. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2023-0002

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**Subject:** Yellowtail wrasse, *Anampses meleagrides* (Teleostei: Perciformes: Labridae).

**Subject identified by:** Jiayuan Lin.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Strait at Bedok Jetty; 1 December 2022; around 1240 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Subtidal coast, from under a concrete jetty.

**Observer:** Anonymous.

**Observation:** A female example of about 12 cm total length was landed on the jetty by hook and line (Fig. 1) by a recreational fisherman. It was cut up and used as bait.

**Remarks:** The subject's colour pattern with the entirely yellow caudal fin is diagnostic of female *Anampses meleagrides*, a species which is widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific from the Red Sea and East Africa eastwards through Indonesia to Australia, Micronesia and Tuamotu Islands, and northwards to Japan and the Ogasawara Islands (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 634). This seems to be the first record of *Anampses meleagrides* in Singapore waters (see Fowler, 1938; Lim & Low, 1998; etc). As this is within the geographic range of the species, its occurrence here should not be unexpected. However, this species is being sold as an ornamental fish in local aquarium shops (personal observation), which also suggests the possibility that it was a released individual that was imported from elsewhere.

### Literature cited:

Allen GR & Erdmann MV (2012) Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia, xiii + 1–424 (Vol. 1), 425-856 (Vol. 2), 857-1292 (Vol. 3).

Fowler HW (1938) A list of the fishes known from Malaya. Fisheries Bulletin, Singapore, 1: 1–268.

Lim KKP & Low JKY (1998) A Guide to Common Marine Fishes of Singapore. Singapore Science Centre, 163 pp.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the right side of the fish just as it was landed at Bedok Jetty. (Photograph by: Anonymous)