

White damselfish in the Singapore Strait

Daisuke Taira

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Subject: White damselfish, *Dischistodus perspicillatus* (Teleostei: Pomacentridae).

Subject identified by: Daisuke Taira.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Pulau Seringat; 30 August 2017; 1455 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Seawall and sandy flat, at about 2 m depth.

Observer: Daisuke Taira.

Observation: An example of about 12 cm total length was observed on the riprap seawall and adjacent sandy flat. Despite having dived regularly in the featured area between 2014 and 2017, this was the only time the observer has encountered the white damselfish in Singapore.



Remarks: The occurrence of the white damselfish in Singapore was listed by Fowler (1938: 189 as *Pomacentrus perspicillatus*) based on the record by Bleeker (1861: 43 as *Pomacentrus trimaculatus* of Cuvier, not of Rüppell). Subsequently, Tweedie (1940: 79 as *Pomacentrus perspicillatus*) recorded one example collected from a fish market in Singapore. Although widespread across the East Indian region and readily recognised by its white body with two black patches at the base of its dorsal fin (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 600), this species does not appear to be commonly seen in Singapore waters (personal observations).

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume II*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. pp. 425-856.
- Bleeker, P. 1861. Mededeeling omtrent vischsoorten, nieuw voor de kennis der fauna van Singapoera. *Verslagen 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.
- Tweedie, M. W. F., 1940. Additions to the collection of fishes in the Raffles Museum. *Bulletin of the Raffles Museum, Singapore*. 16: 68-82.

Note: This sighting was recorded as part of the project “Enhancing Singapore’s Coral Reef Ecosystem in a Green Port” funded by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (WBS: R 347-001-215-490).