

Biodiversity Record: New record of the dartfish, *Ptereleotris microlepis*, in Singapore

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Subjects: Smallscale dartfish, *Ptereleotris microlepis* (Teleostei: Gobiiformes: Ptereleotridae).

Subjects identified by: Jeffrey K. Y. Low.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Sisters' Islands; 17 June 2020; 1345 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef, at a depth of around 12 m.

Observer: Jeffrey K. Y. Low.

Observation: A group of at least three individuals between 8 and 10 cm in total length was observed hovering about near the bottom (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. In situ, lateral view of three *Ptereleotris microlepis* off Sisters' Islands on 17 June 2020. (Photograph by: Jeffrey K. Y. Low).

Remarks: *Ptereleotris microlepis* has been recorded to grow to 12 cm in total length, and is a uniform pale bluish or greenish grey, usually with several iridescent blue stripes on its head and a narrow black bar at the base of its pectoral fin (not distinct on the subjects in Fig. 1). The species is gregarious and sometimes occurs in large colonies over sand and rubble substrates. It is distributed throughout the tropical Indo-west Pacific from the Red Sea and East Africa, eastwards through Indonesia to Australia and the Line and Tuamotu Islands, then north to southern Japan (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 1001).

This observation represents the first record of *Ptereleotris microlepis* in Singapore waters and the third species of the genus to be recorded from the country (see Larson et al., 2016). The first species, *Ptereleotris hanae*, which was first recorded in 2012 (Jaafar & Ng, 2012: 369), is distinguished by having filamentous rays extending from its caudal fin. The second species, *Ptereleotris evides*, the two-tone dartfish, is blackish on the posterior half of its body. A Singapore specimen of *Ptereleotris evides* at the Australian Museum mentioned by Randall & Hoese (1985: 13) was overlooked by Larson et al. (2016: 755). However, apart from that specimen, there are no other records from the country.

Literature cited:

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