

Western gregory at Sultan Shoal

Subject: Western gregory, *Stegastes obreptus* (Teleostei: Pomacentridae).

Subject identified by: Contributor & Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait, southern part of Sultan Shoal; 18 May 2016; 1417 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Fringing coral reef, at depth of about 2 m.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: One individual of about 3 cm total length was observed swimming in and out of crevices, among rocks and between corals on the reef (see accompanying pictures).

Remarks: Although *Stegastes obreptus* is known from Singapore waters (Sin et al., 1994: 53), it does not appear to be often noticed, and specimens from there do not seem to have been illustrated in publications. Adult fish are brown with dark scale margins and a black spot at the front of the dorsal fin. The juveniles are yellow with blue spots on the head and have a large ocellus at the front of the dorsal fin. The western gregory grows to 14.5 cm in total length, lives as solitary individuals or in loose groups, and is distributed from Sri Lanka eastwards to New Guinea, and north to southern Japan (Allen & Erdmann, 2012: 629). At around 3 cm, the example featured here appears to be a juvenile that is yellow only at the posterior and lacks the blue spots on the head. It seems to be transitioning to adult colour pattern.

References:

- Allen, G. R. & M. V. Erdmann, 2012. *Reef Fishes of the East Indies. Volume II*. Tropical Reef Research, Perth, Australia. p. 425-856.
- Sin T. M., M. M. Teo, P. K. L. Ng, L. M. Chou & H. W. Khoo, 1994. The damselfishes (Pisces: Osteichthyes: Pomacentridae) of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore: systematics, ecology and conservation. *Hydrobiologia*. 285: 49-58.



Lateral views of the same individual of *Stegastes obreptus* at Sultan Shoal. Photographs by Daisuke Taira

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