

**Direct observation of drifting juvenile seahorse *Hippocampus trimaculatus* Leach, 1814
beneath the offshore surface at Malacca Strait**

ABSTRACT

Three drifting juvenile seahorses (100.3 mm, 89.5 mm, and 55.8 mm in height) were captured during 2 research surveys between shipping routes at Malacca Strait. All seahorse specimens were identified using morphometric data as *Hippocampus trimaculatus* Leach, 1814. This is the first direct observation of drifting *H. trimaculatus* seahorse near to the water surface, out of their reported water depth (10–100 m) and demersal habitats. This may provide evidence of translocation and long-distance dispersal of *H. trimaculatus* in the region.

Keyword: Southeast Asia; Flat-faced seahorse; Dispersive mechanism; Migration