

## **Alien fishes at Bishan Park**

**Subjects:** Alligator gar, *Atractosteus spatula* (Teleostei: Lepisosteidae); Fig. 1.  
Spotted gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus* (Teleostei: Lepisosteidae); Fig. 2.  
Midas cichlid, *Amphilophus citrinellum* (Teleostei: Cichlidae); Fig. 3.  
Mayan cichlid, *Cichlasoma urophthalmum* (Teleostei: Cichlidae); Fig. 4.  
Mozambique tilapia, *Oreochromis mossambicus* (Teleostei: Cichlidae); Fig. 5.  
African sharp-toothed walking catfish, *Clarias gariepinus* (Teleostei: Clariidae); Fig. 6.

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor and Kelvin K. P. Lim.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Bishan - Ang Mo Kio Park; 13 March 2013; 1300 hrs.

**Habitat:** Stream in open parkland, lined with granite rocks, grasses and ornamental vegetation.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** One alligator gar of about 50 cm total length (Fig. 1); two spotted gars of about 40 cm total length (Fig. 2); several midas cichlids between 15 and 20 cm in total length (Fig. 3); large numbers of Mayan cichlids, 15 to 30 cm in total length, including numerous fingerlings (Fig. 4); many Mozambique tilapias between 15 and 30 cm in total length (Fig. 5) were observed swimming in a shallow pool along the stream. Several African sharp-toothed walking catfish, 30 to 50 cm in total length (Fig. 6), were seen reclining on the substrate, occasionally swimming up to the surface to gulp air.

**Remarks:** The six species herein recorded are not natives of Singapore. Except for the spotted gar, all the other species have been observed in Singapore's reservoirs (Ng & Tan, 2010). There is a record of a spotted gar at the Singapore Botanic Gardens (Lim, 2013). The two species of gar are popular ornamental fishes in Singapore, and the examples observed are most likely abandoned pets.

### **References:**

Lim, K. K. P., 2013. Spotted gar at Singapore Botanic Gardens. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 6.  
Ng H. H. & H. H. Tan, 2010. An annotated checklist of the non-native freshwater fish species in the reservoirs of Singapore. *Cosmos*. 6(1): 95-116.

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

All photographs by Ron K. H. Yeo