

## Congregation of Oriental river gobies at Upper Seletar Reservoir

**Subjects:** Oriental river goby, *Rhinogobius giurinus* (Teleostei: Gobiidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Upper Seletar Reservoir, overflow channel at inlet (Fig. 1) adjacent to Mandai Lake Road; 29 March 2014; 0915-0930 hrs.

**Habitat:** Concrete channel with shallow murky water flowing into artificial freshwater lake serving as impounding reservoir. The substrate was covered with organic debris and algae.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** Thousands of juvenile *Rhinogobius giurinus* between 1 to 1.5 cm total length were observed in the channel in shallow (less than 5 cm deep) water, over an area of at least 8 square metres. They were spread out on the substrate (Fig. 2), but some were swimming in midwater in the same direction, and appeared to be shoaling (Fig. 3). The water in the channel was quite stagnant when the gobies were seen. However, due to strong water flows on the previous two days (27 and 28 March 2014, see Fig. 1), the fish were not noted.

**Remarks:** The introduced *Rhinogobius giurinus* is found in shallow water along rock bunds at Upper Seletar Reservoir (Ng & Tan, 2010). Such a large congregation of this species at any locality in Singapore, and exhibiting apparent shoaling behavior, has apparently not been recorded before.

**Reference:** 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.



Fig. 1. Channel with strong water flow on 27 March 2014. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui



Fig. 2. Large congregation of juvenile *Rhinogobius giurinus* on the substrate on 29 March 2014.



Fig. 3. Juvenile *Rhinogobius giurinus* showing apparent shoaling behavior on 29 March 2014.

Photographs by Tan HeokHui

Contributor: **Tan Heok Hui**  
Contact address: [nhmthh@nus.edu.sg](mailto:nhmthh@nus.edu.sg)