# Fishes observed at MacRitchie Reservoir

**Subjects**:          Asian arowana, *Scleropages formosus* (Teleostei: Osteoglossidae), Fig. 1;
Redtail rasbora, *Rasbora borapetensis* (Teleostei: Cyrpinidae), Fig. 2;
White-spot, *Aplocheilus panchax* (Teleostei: Aplocheilidae), Fig. 3;
Western mosquito fish, *Gambusia affinis* (Teleostei: Poeciliidae), Fig. 4;
Mexican molly, *Poecilia sphenops* (Teleostei: Poeciliidae);
Threadfin acara, *Acarichthys heckelii* (Teleostei: Cichlidae), Fig. 5;
Earth-eater, *Geophagus altifrons* (Teleostei: Cichlidae);
Slender peacock bass, *Cichla temensis* (Teleostei: Cichlidae), Fig. 6;
Common snakehead, *Channa striata* (Teleostei: Channidae), Fig. 7.

**Subjects identified by**: Contributor.

**Location, date and time**: Singapore Island, MacRitchie Reservoir, along Lornie Trail; 29 June 2016; 0930-1100 hrs.

**Habitat**: Freshwater. Artificial lake surrounded by secondary forest, parkland and a golf course, with earth banks, rock bunds and raised wooden plank walkways at the water margins.

**Observer**: Contributor.

**Observations**: The following species of fish were observed and photographed along the reservoir's edge from a raised walkway constructed of wooden planks.
Asian arowana – Three separate individuals between 30 and 40 cm total length. They were dull silver with brownish-red fins, and a pale margin on the caudal fins. The individual featured on Fig. 1 swam into a large clump of submerged aquatic vegetation.
Redtail rasbora (Fig. 2) – Three small groups were sighted amongst aquatic vegetation in the shallows. Each group consisted of about 10 individuals, all less than 5 cm total length.
White-spot (Fig. 3) – Many individuals of various sizes, but all under 5 cm total length, were sighted in very shallow water, usually near submerged aquatic vegetation. The prominent white spot on the head easily distinguishes it from the other small fish species.
Western mosquito fish (Fig. 4) – Many examples, all less than 5 cm total length, frequented the shallow areas.
Mexican molly (not photographed) – Several individuals, all less than 5 cm total length, were seen. It could be differentiated from the western mosquito fish by its more stocky body that often has black speckling.
Threadfin acara (Fig. 5) – A few juveniles between 5 and 10 cm total length were sighted. The juveniles have a white blotch at the anterior part of the dorsal fin, which is absent on the adults.
Earth-eater (not photographed) – Two individuals of about 20 cm total length swam into deeper, murkier water.
Slender peacock bass (Fig. 6) – Two examples of around 40 cm total length, apparently a pair, were swimming parallel to the shore alongside each other.
Common snakehead – A group of around 20 juveniles, each around 5-8 cm total length (Fig. 7), and several adult examples were sighted in shallow water among aquatic vegetation.

**Remarks**: Except for the white-spot and the common snakehead, all the other fish species observed are not native to Singapore. These exotic species have previously been documented from other waterways in the country (Ng & Tan, 2010; Liew et al., 2012; Lai, 2015). Among them, the western mosquitofish, threadfin acara and slender peacock bass are new records for MacRitchie Reservoir (see: Ng & Tan, 2010).

**References**:
Lai, J. C. Y., 2015. Slender peacock bass and motoro stingray from Lower Peirce Reservoir. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2015: 75.
Liew J. H., H. H. Tan & D. C. J. Yeo, 2012. Some cichlid fishes recorded in Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*. 5: 229-236.
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. Asian arowana.


Fig. 2. Redtail rasbora.


Fig. 3. White-spot.


Fig. 4. Western mosquito fish.


Fig. 5. Juvenile threadfin acara.


Fig. 6. Slender peacock bass.


Fig. 7. Juvenile common snakehead.

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