

Spotted gar at Singapore Botanic Gardens

Subject: Spotted gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus* (Teleostei: Lepisosteidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Singapore Botanic Gardens, marsh garden pond near Napier Road entrance; 16 October 2010; around 1300 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater pond in public park. Pond has concrete edges, and is shallow (around 30 cm deep) with dense submersed and emergent ornamental vegetation.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: One example of at least 25 cm total length was observed suspended just under the surface of the water among submersed vegetation. It flipped around and dashed into bunches of water plants after the photograph below was taken.

Remarks: The spotted gar is native to fresh and brackish water habitats of eastern North America, and grows to 112 cm in total length (Page & Burr, 1991). In Singapore, it is commonly offered for sale as ornamental fish. The present example is most likely an abandoned pet.

Reference: Page, L. M. & B. M. Burr, 1991. *A Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of North America north of Mexico*. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, USA. xii + 432 pp.



Photograph by Kelvin K. P. Lim.

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