

Fishes of Kranji Marsh

- Subjects:** Princess carplet, *Amblypharyngodon chulabhornae* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae); Fig. 1.
Spot-fin swamp barb, *Puntius sophore* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae); Fig. 1.
Red-tailed rasbora, *Rasbora borapetensis* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae); Fig. 2.
Sunda pygmy halfbeak, *Dermogenys collettei* (Teleostei: Hemiramphidae); Fig. 3.
Marbled gudgeon, *Oxyeleotris marmorata* (Teleostei: Eleotrididae); Fig. 4.
Paddyfield snakehead, *Channa striata* (Teleostei: Channidae); Fig. 5.
Oriental climbing perch, *Anabas testudineus* (Teleostei: Anabantidae); Fig. 6.
Three-spot gouramy, *Trichopodus trichopterus* (Teleostei: Osphronemidae); Fig. 7.
Croaking gouramy, *Trichopsis vittata* (Teleostei: Osphronemidae); Fig. 8.

Subjects identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Kranji Marsh pond at the end of Neo Tiew Lane 2; 23 May 2009; in late morning and at dusk.

Habitat: Freshwater marsh pond, shallow with muddy substrate, and lush growths of the aquatic weed *Hydrilla*.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: During the morning visit, the red-tailed rasbora (around 4 to 5 cm total length) was the only fish observed in large numbers in the pond (fig. 2), along with two individuals of the spot-fin swamp barb. In the evening, one spot-fin swamp barb of about 8 cm total length was photographed (fig. 1), along with a lone princess carplet of about 3 cm total length (upper left corner of fig. 1). Fishes that were difficult to see in the morning were much easier to approach and photograph at dusk as they appeared to be momentarily stunned by torch-lights, and also it was far easier to see into the water without skylight reflecting off the surface. At least 10 examples of the Sunda pygmy halfbeak around 2 to 5 cm total length (fig. 3) and about as many individuals of the croaking gouramy were seen at the edge of the pond under a large tree. An adult male croaking gouramy of about 6 cm total length was photographed in the morning (fig. 8). Only one marbled gudgeon of about 15 cm total length was observed (fig. 4). Several individuals of the paddyfield snakehead, between 10 to 20 cm total length were lurking among the vegetation (fig. 5), and a school of 3 cm long fingerlings, no less than 60 of them, was noted at one corner of the pond. One example of the Oriental climbing perch, about 12 cm total length, and about 4 individuals of the three-spot gouramy, around 8 cm in total length, were also photographed. A few specimens of the east Asian stream goby *Rhinogobius giurinus*, about 4 cm total length, were seen on that evening but not photographed.

Remarks: The princess carplet has already been recorded from this location (Lim & Tan, 2012), and the photograph (fig. 1) featuring the carplet and the spot-fin swamp barb also appears in Lim & Tan (2011). The princess carplet, spot-fin swamp barb, red-tailed rasbora and east Asian stream goby are not native to Singapore. The red-tailed rasbora should occur in the adjoining Kranji Reservoir, although it was not recorded there by Ng & Tan (2010). The remaining six are native species that typically occur in exposed freshwater habitats. The snakehead, marbled gudgeon and possibly the climbing perch, are believed to be predators of the smaller fishes. The lesser bumblebee goby (*Brachygobius sabanus*) and the mosquito fish (*Gambusia fñnis*) were not seen, but recorded on a subsequent visit (Lim & Tan, 2012).

References:

- Lim, K. K. P. & H. H. Tan, 2011. Addition of three cyprinid fishes to the established alien fauna of Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*. 4: 377-382.
Lim, K. K. P. & H. H. Tan, 2012. Addition of fish species to the established alien fauna of Singapore: *Amblypharyngodon chulabhornae* and *Brachygobius sabanus*. *Nature in Singapore*. 5: 69-72.
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

Nick Baker



Fig. 2

Yeo Suay Hwee



Fig. 3

Nick baker

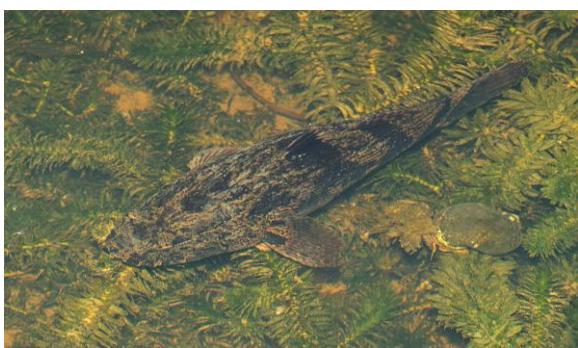


Fig. 4

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Fig. 5

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Fig. 6

Nick Baker



Fig. 7

Nick Baker



Fig. 8

Yeo Suay Hwee

Photographs by Nick Baker & Yeo Suay Hwee

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