

Asian arowana in Nee Soon swamp forest

Subject: Asian arowana, *Scleropages formosus* (Teleostei: Osteoglossidae).

Subject identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, stream in Nee Soon swamp forest; 6 January 2014; ca. 2030 hrs.

Habitat: Pool along small, shallow forest stream in freshwater swamp.

Observers: Daniel Ng, Kenny Chua & Prarthini M. Selveindran.

Observation: A juvenile of about 9 cm standard length (measured from snout tip to tail base) with damaged anal fin was obtained during a stream survey.

Remarks: The Asian arowana has been recorded as a non-native species in Singapore's reservoirs and urban ponds (Ng & Tan, 2010; Kwik et al., 2013; Tan, 2014). Juveniles have also been recently sighted in a forest stream at Lower Peirce (Baker, 2013). The present example is likely to have swum into the swamp forest from the Upper Seletar Reservoir where it was probably born of feral parents. As it is not a hatchling (usually 5 to 6 cm in standard length), this juvenile is likely to have preyed on small native fishes in the stream. This is the first record of the Asian arowana in Nee Soon swamp forest.

References:

Baker, N., 2013. Juvenile Asian arowana at Lower Peirce. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 21.

Kwik, J. T. B., Z. Y. Kho, B. S. Quek, H. H. Tan & D. C. J. Yeo, 2013. Urban stormwater ponds in Singapore: potential pathways for spread of alien freshwater fishes. *BioInvasions Records*. 2 (3): 239-245.

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.

Tan H. H., 2014. Asian arowana in Pangsua pond. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 15.



Subject with damaged anal fin (outline of original fin in yellow dots). Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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