

A gravid dwarf bumblebee catfish

Subject: Dwarf bumblebee catfish, *Pseudomystus leiacanthus* (Teleostei: Siluriformes: Bagridae).

Subject identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Nee Soon swamp-forest; 15 November 2014.

Habitat: Freshwater swamp-forest. Fast-flowing stream with mud and silt substrates, under forest canopy.

Observers: Li Tianjiao & Lim Weihao.

Observation: An example of 37.3 mm standard length (snout tip to tail base) was obtained from the stream (see accompanying picture). It was later found to be a gravid female.

Remarks: The present example is preserved in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore (ZRC) and catalogued as ZRC 54636. In Singapore, *Pseudomystus leiacanthus* is known only from the Central Catchment Nature Reserve and is locally classified as 'critically endangered' (Lim et al., 2008: 150). The species is known to attain 59.8 mm in standard length and can be distinguished from its congeners by a broad blackish band over its caudal fin (Lim & Ng, 2008: 45). Although clearly an adult, the present specimen is relatively small and the dark band on the caudal fin is barely discernible.

References:

- Lim, K. K. P. & H. H. Ng, 2008. *Pseudomystus heokhuii*, a new species of bagrid catfish from Sumatra (Teleostei: Bagridae). *Zootaxa*. 1686: 37-47.
- Lim, K. K. P., H. H. Tan & J. K. Y. Low, 2008. Fishes. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. Second edition. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 145-154.



Pseudomystus leiacanthus (ZRC 54636). Dark greenish colour in the abdomen indicates the presence of eggs. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

Note: This observation was made during a survey of the aquatic biodiversity of the Nee Soon swamp forest under the 'Nee Soon Swamp Forest Biodiversity and Hydrology Baseline Studies – Phase II' project jointly conducted by the National Parks Board and the National University of Singapore (Tropical Marine Science Institute, Department of Biological Sciences, Department of Geography and the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum).

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