

Red pacu at Punggol Reservoir

Subject: Red pacu, *Piaractus brachypomus* (Teleostei: Characiformes: Serrasalminidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Punggol Reservoir under Seletar Link bridge; 2 August 2015; around 1100 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater. Dammed estuary fringed by parkland and scrub vegetation.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: An adult example of about 38 cm total length was landed on the shore of the reservoir, apparently caught in gill net set in the reservoir by fishermen. The attached picture shows a lateral view of the fish.

Remarks: The red pacu is a common ornamental and food fish that is native to the Amazon and Orinoco basins in South America. In Singapore, it has recently been recorded from Jurong Lake, MacRitchie Reservoir, and a pond at the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve (Baker, 2013; Ng & Tan, 2010: 102-103). These records, including the present one, appear to represent abandoned captive fish, and there is no evidence that this species is reproducing in the wild in Singapore.

References:

- Baker, N., 2013. Red pacu at Catchment Pond, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 111.
- 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.



Photograph by Tan Siong Kiat

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