

Asian arowana from Banir stream with note on its gut contents

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

Subject identified by: Contributors. Gut contents identified by Hwang Wei Song.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Upper Thomson, Lorong Banir area; 26 October 2015; 1130 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater. Stream draining out of swamp forest.

Observers: Claudia Tan & Kenny Chua.

Observation: A sub-adult arowana of about 29 cm standard length (tip of snout to base of tail) was caught in a net during a stream survey (Fig. 1). The fish regurgitated some of its gut contents (Fig. 2) and these have been identified as parts of ants (Insecta: Hymenoptera).

Remarks: The Asian arowana is recorded as a non-native species in Singapore. It is present in many reservoirs throughout the island (Ng & Tan, 2010). In the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, it has been seen in a forest stream draining into Lower Peirce Reservoir (Baker, 2013), and from the Nee Soon swamp forest (Tan & Ng, 2014). Examples were also found in a freshwater pond at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (Baker, 2014) and at Pangsua Pond (Kwik et al., 2013; Tan, 2014). The featured example seems to be the first record of this species from the Lorong Banir area.

The biology of feral Asian arowanas in Singapore is not well documented. This species is known to be a predator of small fishes, amphibians, crustaceans and insects. The ant diet of the featured individual indicates that it is an opportunistic feeder. The ants, being terrestrial creatures, were probably deposited into the stream by rain or wind.

References:

- Baker, N., 2013. Juvenile Asian arowana at Lower Peirce. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 21.
Baker, N., 2014. Asian arowana at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 36.
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.
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Figure 1. Sub-adult *Scleropages formosus* of about 29 cm standard length, with damaged anal and caudal fins. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui



Figure 2. Gut contents regurgitated by the *Scleropages formosus*, containing many Hymenopteran (ant) parts. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

Contributors: **Tan Heok Hui**, Claudia L. Y. **Tan** & Kenny W. J. **Chua**
Contact address: nhmthh@nus.edu.sg (Tan)