

Flathead goby at Lower Peirce Reservoir

Subjects: Flathead goby, *Glossogobius* sp. (Teleostei: Gobiidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Lower Peirce Reservoir; 7 August 2015; 1930 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater. Artificial lake surrounded by secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: Two individuals between 10 and 15 cm total length were seen among granite rocks along the edge of the reservoir. The smaller example is shown in the attached picture together with a glass shrimp (*Macrobrachium* sp.) and an apple snail (*Pomacea* sp). They were in water no deeper than 10 cm, on the substrate between rock crevices.

Remarks: The subject could not be reliably identified to species as it requires the arrangement of papillae on the head to be examined in detail. Members of the genus *Glossogobius* in Singapore typically inhabit brackish water in the estuarine reaches of waterways, and some species have managed to adapt to freshwater when these estuaries become dammed to form freshwater reservoirs (Larson & Lim, 2005). The presence of *Glossogobius* species in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve has been recorded earlier by Thomas et al. (2014). They could have been introduced there with raw water pumped over from Johor (see Ng & Tan, 2010), or perhaps even from other reservoirs of estuarine origin within Singapore.

References:

- Larson, H. K. & K. K. P. Lim, 2005. *A Guide to Gobies of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre. 164 pp.
- 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.
- Thomas, N., N. Baker & K. K. P. Lim, 2014. Flathead goby at Rifle Range forest. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 177.



Dorso-lateral view of flathead goby with glass shrimp to the right, and an apple snail to the left. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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