

## Green chromides spawning at Sentosa

**Subjects:** Green chromide, *Etroplus suratensis* (Teleostei: Cichlidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributors.

**Location, date and time:** Sentosa Island at One Degree 15 Marina; 9 March 2010; 1030-1050 hrs.

**Habitat:** Marine. Open area with silty substrate at around 3 m depth. Water salinity in the marina was 33.1 ppt (Chan, 2007).

**Observer:** Lionel C. S. Ng

**Observation:** Two green chromides, each about 15 and 20 cm total length, were observed and photographed underwater, hovering near the bottom and attending to a shoal of fry (seen as a cloud of dark specks in Figs. 1 & 2). As the observer went closer, one of the adult fish suddenly dashed straight at him and repeated the process when the observer continued his approach. The adult fish were seen to be continuously flicking their blackish pelvic-fins.

**Remarks:** The green chromide has been recorded mainly in estuarine waters along the northern coasts and around the islands northwest of Singapore Island (Ng & Tan, 2010). The present observation shows that it is adaptable to marine conditions, and has colonised the southern shores. This non-native species can be expected to spread to the other islands in the Singapore Strait, given the presence of sheltered shallow waters. Although this has not been studied, it seems possible that the green chromide can potentially impact native fish species that have similar ecological requirements.

The flicking of their blackish pelvic-fins by the adult fish seems to be a way of keeping the fry in close proximity (Ward & Samarakoon, 1981).

### References:

- Chan, S. M. J., 2007. *Scleractinian diversity in the semi-enclosed waters of One°15 Marina, Sentosa*. Unpublished Bachelor of Science thesis. Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore.
- Ng T. H. & H. H. Tan, 2010. The introduction, origin and life history attributes of the non-native cichlid, *Etroplus suratensis* (Bloch, 1790) in the coastal waters of Singapore. *Journal of Fish Biology*. 76: 2238-2260.
- Ward, J. A. & J. I. Samarakoon, 1981. Reproductive tactics of the Asian cichlids of the genus *Etroplus* in Sri Lanka. *Environmental Biology of Fishes*. 6: 95-103.

**Note:** The contributors are grateful to the staff of One Degree 15 Marina for permission to conduct dive surveys at their premises.

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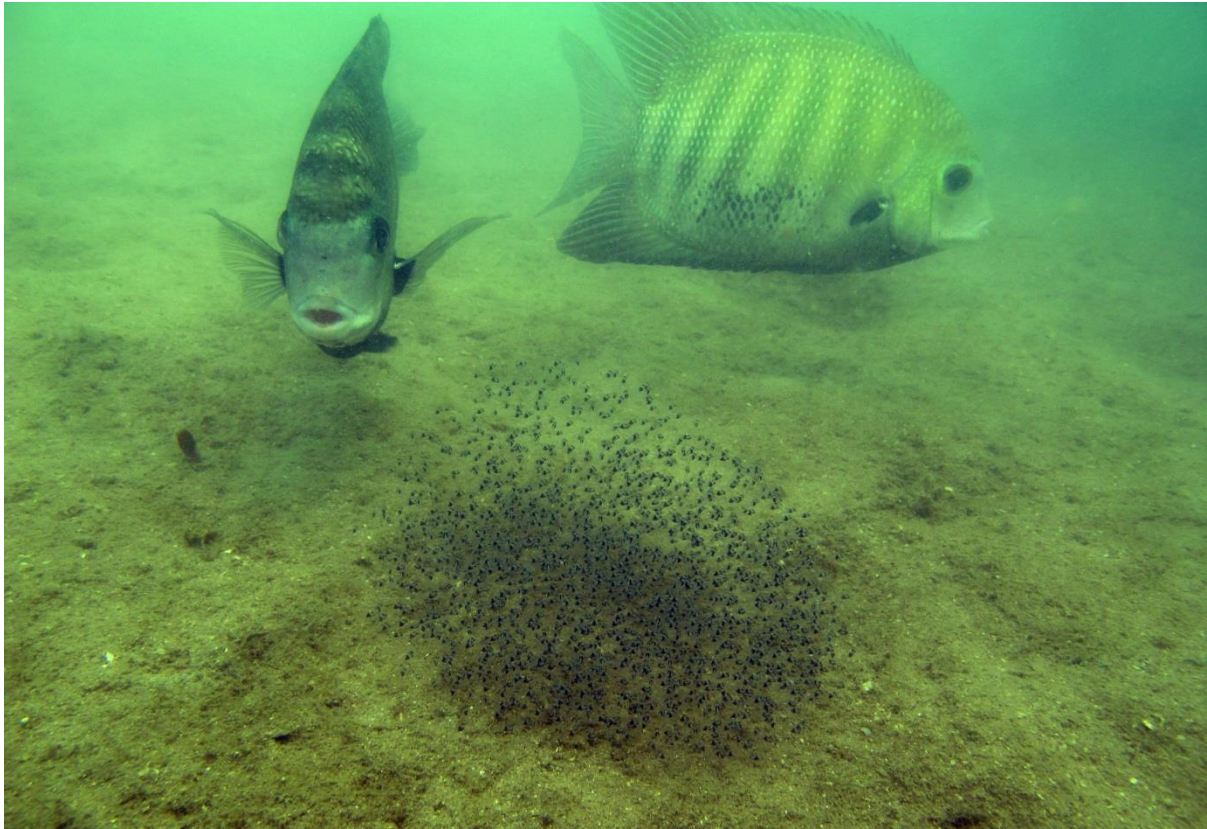


Fig. 1. A pair of adult green chromide with dense swarm of fry in front.



Fig. 2. Adult fish interacting with each other behind their swarm of fry.

Photographs by Lionel C. S. Ng