

## Hybrid tilapia at Sungei Buloh

**Subjects:** Hybrid tilapia, *Oreochromis* sp. (Teleostei: Cichlidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Kranji extension; 12 September 2016; 0930-1100 hrs.

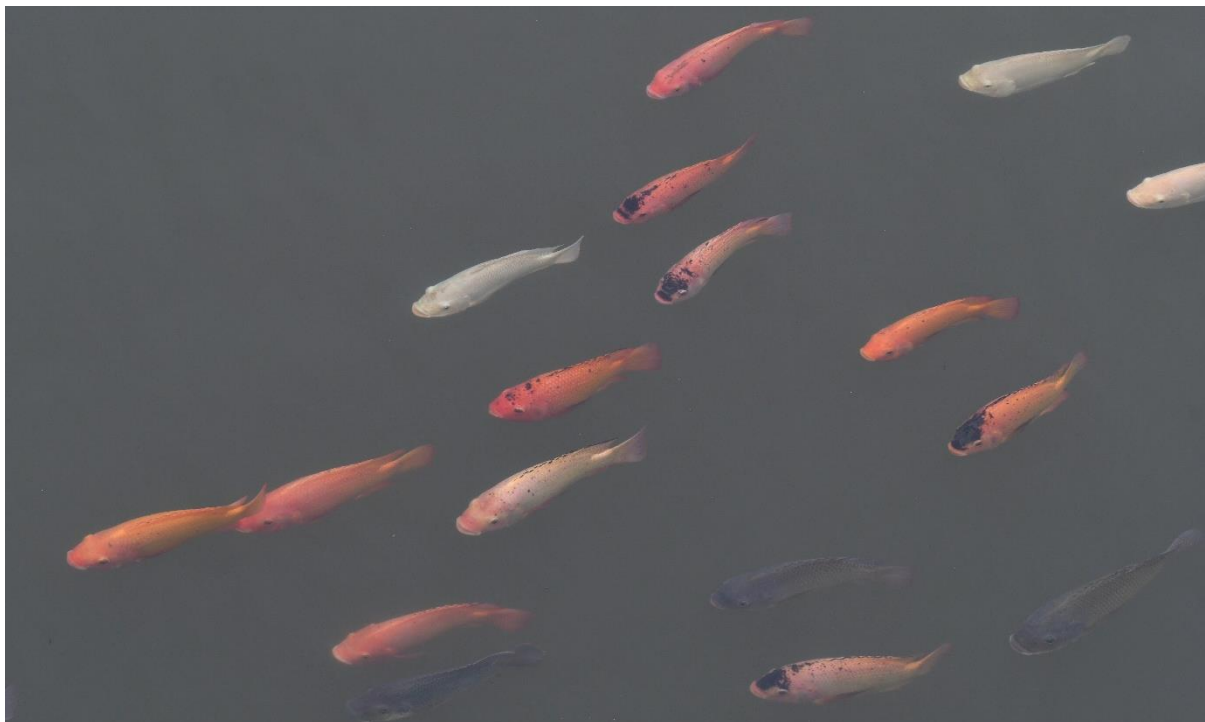
**Habitat:** Estuarine. Mangrove shore in intertidal area during incoming tide.

**Observers:** Contributors.

**Observation:** More than 100 tilapia of around 30 cm (standard length - tip of snout to base of tail) were observed at two locations, moving slowly just under the surface of the water. These were conspicuously coloured, ranging from orange to pink, to platinum. Some individuals were mottled with black. They occurred singly or in groups of up to 20 individuals. The accompanying picture shows the dorso-lateral view of some hybrid tilapias swimming alongside two Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) at the lower right corner, and a Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) at the lower left margin.

**Remarks:** Hybrid tilapia, identified by their uniformly white, orange or pink colour patterns, have been introduced in Singapore for modern aquaculture (Lim & Ng, 1990). The numerous individuals in the featured observation could have escaped, or been released, from nearby floating fish farms in the Johor Strait (personal observation).

**Reference:** Lim, K. K. P. & P. K. L. Ng, 1990. *A Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre, 160 pp.



Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

Contributors: **Tan Heok Hui & Koh Li Ling**  
Contact address: [heokhui@nus.edu.sg](mailto:heokhui@nus.edu.sg) (Tan)