

Siamese glass perchlets at Bukit Batok Nature Park

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Subjects: Siamese glass perchlet, *Parambassis siamensis* (Teleostei: Ambassidae).

Subjects identified by: Tan Heok Hui.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Batok Nature Park; 4 August 2018; 0930 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater. Flooded quarry in parkland fringed with planted greenery and secondary forest.

Observer: Tan Heok Hui.

Observation: Numerous examples were observed aggregating in shallow water at the mouth of the outflow stream from the flooded quarry (Fig. 1 & 2). The fish were more or less of uniform size, about 3 cm total length. No fish were observed in the quarry lake, or they may be obscured by turbid water.

Remarks: *Parambassis siamensis* was first recorded in Singapore by Lim & Ng (1990 as *Chanda* sp.) and is believed to be introduced. This species is native to Indochina, Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia, and in Singapore, has been recorded from many reservoirs and artificial bodies of freshwater (Ng & Tan, 2010; Kwik et al., 2013; Ng & Tan, 2013), as well as some natural waterways (Ho et al., 2016; Li et al., 2016).

The Siamese glass perchlet has been observed in the quarry pond at Bukit Batok Nature Park since 25 September 2005, and subsequently on 23 October 2010 by Kelvin K. P. Lim (personal communication). However, this seems to be the first time a record from the locality is published. Large numbers of *Parambassis siamensis* have also been observed in the Swan Lake at the Singapore Botanic Gardens on 23 October 2010 by Darren C. J. Yeo and Kelvin K. P. Lim (personal communication). It is not known how these fish came to be in these urban water bodies, but they are likely to have been deliberately introduced by people.

References:

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Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of a large aggregation of *Parambassis siamensis* at Bukit Batok Nature Park.



Fig. 2. Close-up dorso-lateral view of *Parambassis siamensis* at the mouth of the outflow stream.

Photographs by Tan Heok Hui