

## An arapaima at the Singapore Botanic Gardens

Zestin W.W. Soh

[zestin\\_soh@nparks.gov.sg](mailto:zestin_soh@nparks.gov.sg)

**Subject:** *Arapaima*, *Arapaima gigas* (Teleostei: Osteoglossiformes: Arapaimidae).

**Subject identified by:** Zestin W.W. Soh.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Singapore Botanic Gardens, Symphony Lake; 28 April 2019; 1435 hours.

**Habitat:** Freshwater. Artificial lake in semi-urban parkland.

**Observer:** Heng Joo Huat.

**Observation:** An example of about 1.5 m in total length was observed swimming near the water surface along the side of Symphony Lake. A dorsal view of the fish in-situ is shown in the accompanying photograph.

**Remarks:** The genus *Arapaima* is presently recognised to contain four species, but only *Arapaima gigas* is known to be widespread (see Stewart, 2013a, 2013b). This native of tropical South America grows to be among the world's largest freshwater fish (Luna, 2020). According to a recent compilation of non-native fishes in Singapore's freshwaters by Tan et al. (2020), sightings of *Arapaima gigas* in Singapore's inland waters were unsubstantiated with photographs prior to a record at Marina Reservoir in 2017. The featured sighting may, therefore, be the second confirmed record of its introduction into local aquatic habitats.

### References:

- Luna SM (2020) *Arapaima gigas* (Schinz, 1822). FishBase.  
<https://www.fishbase.se/summary/2076>  
 [Accessed on 23 May 2020].
- Stewart DJ (2013a) Redescription of the *Arapaima agassizii* (Valenciennes), a rare fish from Brazil (Osteoglossomorpha: Osteoglossidae). *Copeia*, 2013 (1): 38-51.
- Stewart DJ (2013b) A new species of *Arapaima* (Osteoglossomorpha: Osteoglossidae) from the Solimões River, Amazonia State, Brazil. *Copeia*, 2013 (3): 470-476.
- Tan HH, Lim KKP, Liew JH, Low BW, Lim RBH, Kwik JTB. & Yeo DCJ (2020) The non-native freshwater fishes of Singapore: an annotated compilation. *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*, 68: 150-195.



Dorsal view of the arapaima at the edge of Symphony lake.

Photograph by Heng Joo Huat