

Biodiversity Record: A common snakehead with fry

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Subjects: Common snakehead, *Channa striata* (Teleostei: Anabantiformes: Channidae).

Subjects identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Lower Peirce Reservoir; 9 July 2021; 1400–1410 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater. Shore of artificial lake at the edge of secondary forest, under a wooden boardwalk.

Observer: Ryuta Teo.

Observation: One example of about 30 cm total length was observed in water of about 20 cm depth among aquatic vegetation. It was surrounded by at least 30 fry, each about 1 cm total length, at the surface of the water (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. In situ dorsal view of adult common snakehead surrounded by its orange-coloured fry. No less than 30 fry can be seen in the picture, mostly in the upper left quarter, and a few along the lower right margin and lower left quarter. The fry is yellowish with a pair of black stripes on the back. (Photograph by: Ryuta Teo).

Remarks: *Channa striata* is a common predatory fish that is native to Singapore's freshwater bodies (Baker & Lim, 2012). More than a thousand eggs can be produced in a brood, and both parents participate in guarding the eggs and young (see Courtenay & Williams, 2004: 117). However, only one parent of unknown gender was seen in the featured observation. It is not known if the other parent was involved or concealed nearby.

Literature cited:

- Baker N & Lim KKP (2012) Wild Animals of Singapore: A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes. Updated Edition. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd., Singapore, 180 pp.
- Courtenay WR Jr & Williams JD (2004) Snakehead (Pisces, Channidae): A Biological Synopsis and Risk Assessment. Circular 1251. U.S. Geological Survey, Virginia, USA, v + 143 pp.