

Peacock bass in Upper Seletar Reservoir

Subjects: Peacock bass, *Cichla orinocensis* (Teleostei: Cichlidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Upper Seletar Reservoir, western arm at River Safari, under bridge; 26 November 2013; 1055-1100 hrs.

Habitat: Artificial freshwater impoundment, with clay and soil substratum.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: Two peacock basses (about 30-40 cm standard length), apparently mature individuals, were circling over a large piece of rock (Fig. 1, indicated by white arrow). This suggests that the fish were spawning or caring for their eggs. The bridge was too high to permit the observer from gaining better views.

Remarks: *Cichla orinocensis* (Fig. 2, example from Pandan Reservoir) has been recorded as a non-native species in Singapore's reservoirs (Ng & Tan, 2010). The present observation appears to represent a new record of the species for Upper Seletar Reservoir.

Reference: Ng H. H. & H. H. Tan, 2010. An annotated checklist of the non-native freshwater fish species in the reservoirs of Singapore. *COSMOS*. 6 (1): 95-116.



Figure 1. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui



Figure 2. Adult male *Cichla orinocensis* of about 35 cm standard length from Pandan Reservoir. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

Contributor: **Tan Heok Hui**
Contact address: heokhui@nus.edu.sg