

Hasselt's bony-lipped barb at Sime forest

Subjects: Hasselt's bony-lipped barb, *Osteochilus vittatus* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Sime forest, stream channel flowing from Upper Peirce Reservoir to MacRitchie Reservoir; 9 November 2010; 1200-1300 hrs.

Habitat: Semi-natural stream flowing through an open swampy area with clay and soil substratum.

Observers: Yvonne Kwang and Glendon Teo.

Observation: Two examples, a male of 118.4 mm standard length (Fig. 1), and a female of 133.4 mm standard length (Fig. 2) were obtained during a faunal survey. They have been deposited at the Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore, under catalogue number ZRC 52088.

Remarks: *Osteochilus vittatus* has been recorded as a non-native species in Singapore's reservoirs (Ng & Tan, 2010). The specimens featured here appear to be sexually dimorphic. The male (Fig. 1) has brighter reddish-orange dorsal, caudal, anal and pelvic fins compared to the female (Fig. 2). Also, the upper lobe of the male's caudal fin is longer, and the upper region of the eyes is bright red. The female has a thicker body, which was found to be full of roe. Their breeding condition is believed to be triggered by the year-end monsoon rains. This shows that *Osteochilus vittatus* can, and most likely does have an established population in Singapore.

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.

Fig. 1. Male.



Fig. 2. Female.



Photographs by Tan Heok Hui

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