

## Hasselt's bony-lipped barb and zebra tilapia at Sime forest

**Subjects:** Hasselt's bony-lipped barb, *Osteochilus vittatus* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae).  
Zebra tilapia, *Tilapia buttikoferi* (Teleostei: Cichlidae).

**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; 10 December 2010; 1200-1215 hrs.

**Habitat:** Semi-natural stream flowing through open swampy area with clay and sand substratum

**Observer:** contributor, with Darren Yeo, Low Bi Wei and Ng Ting Hui.

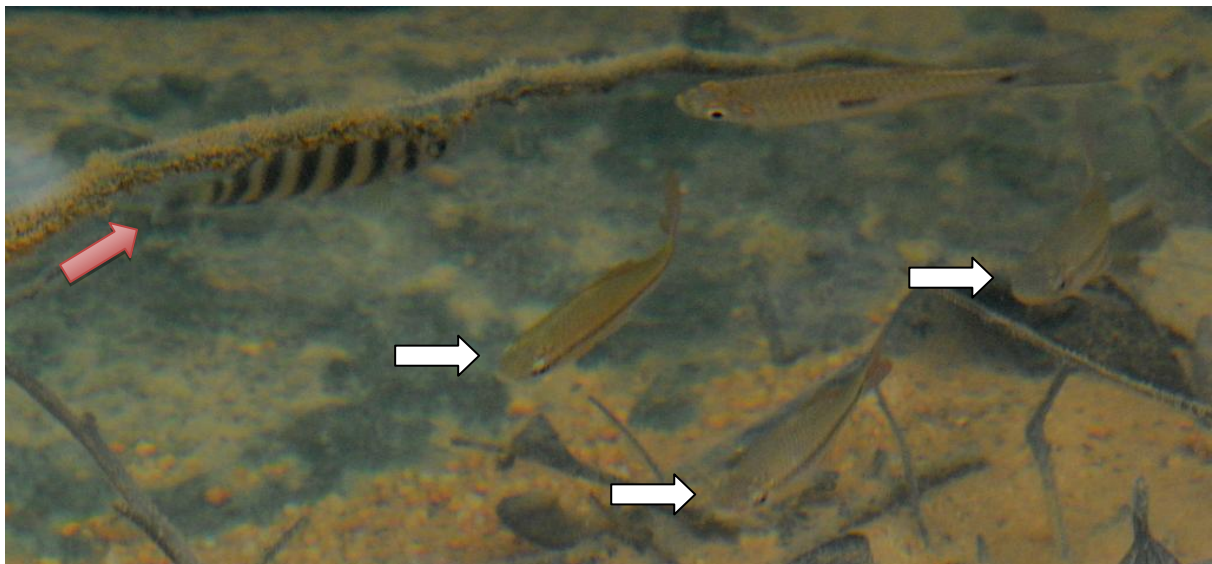
**Observation:** A school of fish was seen in the spillway leading into the stream channel. It consisted mainly of the native *Rasbora elegans*, but also included three individuals of the striped form of *Osteochilus vittatus* (each about 10 cm total length, indicated in the picture by white arrows), and a juvenile *Tilapia buttikoferi* (about 7-8 cm total length, indicated by red arrow). They were near the substrate, moving among submerged tree branches.

**Remarks:** *Osteochilus vittatus* has been recorded as a non-native species in Singapore's reservoirs (Ng & Tan, 2010) and more recently in the same stream channel (Tan, 2013). The examples depicted in Tan (2013) show the typical colour pattern without a broad black longitudinal stripe. It appears that some *Osteochilus vittatus* are able to display this black stripe at will. The *Tilapia buttikoferi* has been recorded from Upper Peirce Reservoir (Ng & Tan, 2010), and the present individual was most probably flushed out of there. This alien species has not been recorded from MacRitchie Reservoir, but seems likely to colonise it, if it has not already done so.

### References:

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.

Tan H. H., 2013. Hasselt's bony-lipped barb at Sime forest. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2013: 99.



Mixed group of fishes that includes *Rasbora elegans* (top right), *Osteochilus vittatus* (indicated by blue arrows), and a *Tilapia buttikoferi* (indicated by red arrow). Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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