

Giant goramies in Sungei Seletar

Subjects: Giant goramy, *Osphronemus goramy* (Teleostei: Osphronemidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Sungei Seletar at Springleaf Nature Park, draining to Lower Seletar Reservoir; 24 March 2017; 1920-1930 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater channel with earth banks in open parkland.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: Five large individuals between 50 and 60 cm total length were sighted at dusk swimming near the surface of the water and gulping air (see accompanying pictures). From the dorsal views, four of the fish were pale pinkish and one was dark grey.

Remarks: *Osphronemus goramy* has been recorded as a non-native species in many reservoirs in Singapore, including the Lower Seletar Reservoir (Ng & Tan, 2010). The present observation is in a waterway linking the Lower Seletar Reservoir to the Upper Seletar Reservoir and the Nee Soon swamp-forest. The pale-coloured individuals are likely to be abandoned pets. Juvenile giant goramies of the artificially bred xanthic or albino forms are often sold locally as ornamental fish (personal observations).

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.



Dorso-lateral views of pale coloured individuals of giant goramy near the water surface. Photographs by Tan Heok Hui

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