

Biodiversity Record: Java barbs, *Barbonymus gonionotus*, at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

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Subjects: Java barb, *Barbonymus gonionotus* (Teleostei: Cypriniformes: Cyprinidae).

Subjects identified by: Chen Xuanhe and Lin Jiayuan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, at Kranji Way Entrance and Neo Tiew Crescent Entrance; 15 May 2025; 0800–0900 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater. Artificial ponds in coastal parkland.

Observers: Luqmanul Hakim Bin Othman and Chen Xuanhe.

Observations: In the pond at Kranji Way entrance, at least four Java barbs were observed swimming near the water surface (Fig. 1) together with pygmy halfbeaks (*Dermogenys collettei*). In the pond at the Neo Tiew Crescent entrance, at least three examples were seen alongside common snakeheads (*Channa striata*) (Fig. 2), Mayan cichlids (*Mayaheros urophthalmus*), three-spot gouramies (*Trichopodus trichopterus*), red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), and Asiatic softshell turtles (*Amyda* cf. *cartilaginea*). One of the barbs was noted to be feeding on duckweed (*Lemna minor*). All the barbs were around 35 cm in total length.

Remarks: The Java barb is believed to be native to the freshwater bodies of Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia (Sumatra & Java) (Thinh et al., 2020). In Singapore, it is an introduced species that has been recorded from Woodlands Town Garden (Tan et al., 2020). It has also been seen recently at Kranji Reservoir, Jurong Lake, and Sungei Seletar (Lin Jiayuan, personal communication). The presence of the barbs at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve is attributed to human-mediated translocation, possibly for merit-making religious rituals.



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of two Java barbs in the Kranji Way entrance pond. Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of a Java barb (top) and a common snakehead (*Channa striata*) at the Neo Tiew Crescent entrance pond (Photographs: Luqmanul Hakim Bin Othman).

Literature cited:

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- Thinh DV, Van NS, Nguyen THT & Lumbantobing D (2020) *Barbonymus gonionotus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2020: e.T166914A89799952. DOI: 10.2305/IUCN.UK.2020-3.RLTS.T166914A89799952.en. (Accessed 15 May 2025)