

Biodiversity Record: Ladyfish, *Elops hawaiiensis*, in freshwater pond at Sungei Buloh

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Subject: Ladyfish, *Elops hawaiiensis* (Teleostei: Elopiformes: Elopidae).

Subject identified by: Chen Xuanhe.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, pond near the visitor centre, approximately 50 m from Sungei Buloh Besar; 10 June 2026; around 1000 hrs.

Habitat: Freshwater. Artificial pond in coastal parkland.

Observers: Chen Xuanhe and Tam Odelia.

Observation: An example of about 60 cm standard length (from snout tip to base of caudal fin) was observed (Fig. 1) alongside freshwater fishes, including the native white-spot (*Aplocheilichthys armatus*), climbing perch (*Anabas testudineus*), common snakehead (*Channa striata*), three-spot gourami (*Trichopodus trichopterus*), croaking gourami (*Trichopsis vittata*), as well as the introduced Java barb (*Barbonymus gonionotus*), mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*), and Mayan cichlid (*Mayaheros urophthalmus*).



Fig. 1. In-situ dorso-lateral view of *Elops hawaiiensis* swimming alongside a *Barbonymus gonionotus* on the right. (Photograph by: Chen Xuanhe).

Remarks: *Elops hawaiiensis* commonly inhabits coastal and estuarine waters (Lim & Low, 1998, as *Elops machnata*) Its leptocephalus larvae are often found in brackish water in inshore areas (Kottelat et al., 1993, as *Elops machnata*; Smith, 1999, as *Elops hawaiiensis*). This observation shows that adults can survive in freshwater. If it was not recently introduced into the pond, it seems possible that the featured individual grew to adulthood in freshwater after having entered the pond as a larva from an adjacent drainage with brackish water during high spring tides. The third edition of the Singapore Red Data Book regards this species as ‘data deficient’ (Jaafar et al., 2024, as *Elops hawaiiensis*).

Literature cited:

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