

Floral Snakehead Gudgeon *Giuris margaritacea* on Pulau Langkawi, Peninsular Malaysia

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Observer: Nick Baker.

Photograph by: Nick Baker.

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location: Datai Bay, Pulau Langkawi, Kedah, Peninsular Malaysia.

Habitat: Coastal freshwater stream with rocks and soft, sandy, substrate feeding into a small mangrove inlet.

Date and time: 16 December 2015, 21:00 hrs.

Identity of subject: Floral Snakehead Gudgeon, *Giuris margaritacea* (Teleostei: Perciformes: Eleotridae).

Description of observation: Two examples of between 20 and 25 cm total length were observed lying motionless and in close proximity to each other, amongst rocks on the sandy bed of a clear, fast-flowing, shallow stream. The water depth was around 15 cm, and the location was ten metres upstream from the mangrove inlet. The accompanying pictures show dorso-lateral views of both subjects.



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of the first example of the Floral Snakehead Gudgeon. Note the black stripes on the side of the head and the pale orange throat and anal fin. © Nick Baker



Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of the head of the second individual.

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Remarks: In Peninsular Malaysia, this gobioid fish is apparently known only from hilly offshore islands such as Pulau Tioman and Pulau Langkawi (Amirrudin & Lim, 2006: 117). The species, which inhabits coastal freshwaters as adults and apparently spends its larval stages in the sea, is otherwise widespread throughout the tropical Indo-west Pacific (Kottelat et al., 1993: 135 as *Ophieleotris aporos*; Allen et al., 2002: 289). Also known as 'snakehead gudgeon' (Allen et al., 2002: 289), the common name of this species is herein expanded to avoid confusion with a similar gobioid fish, *Ophiocara porocephala* (see Larson & Lim, 2005: 53).

References:

- Allen, G. R., Midgley, S.H. & Allen, M. (2002). *Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia*. Western Australian Museum & CSIRO Publishing, Australia. xiv + 394 pp.
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- Larson, H. K. & Lim, K.K.P. (2005). *A Guide to Gobies of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre. 164 pp.