

Some fishes observed at Sungai Tahan, Taman Negara, Pahang, Peninsular Malaysia

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Photographs by: Nick Baker.

Subjects identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location: Sungai Tahan near Kuala Tahan, Taman Negara, Pahang, Peninsular Malaysia.

Elevation: 100 metres

Habitat: Fast-flowing, clear, river with rocky and gravel substrate, passing through primary lowland forest.

Date and time: 29 June 2006, 12:08 to 12:13 hrs.

Identity of subjects:

Stripe-tailed Tinfoil Barb, *Barbonymus schwanenfeldii* (Fig. 1).

Kerai, *Hypsibarbus* sp. (Fig. 2).

Apollo Shark-minnow, *Luciosoma* sp. (Fig 3.).

Descriptions of records: All the fishes were photographed from above the water, and are depicted in Figs. 1-3 in dorso-lateral views.

Remarks: All three species are known in the drainages of Taman Negara (Mohd. Zakaria-Ismail, 1984, as *Puntius daruphani* and *Puntius schwanenfeldii*).

Fig. 1 is identified as *Barbonymus schwanenfeldii* based on its rhomboid body shape covered in silver scales, dorsal fin red with black blotch at the tip, red pelvic and anal fins, and red caudal fin with whitish margin and a black stripe along each fin lobe (Kottelat et al., 1993, as *Barbodes schwanenfeldii*).



Fig. 1. Stripe-tailed Tinfoil Barb, *Barbonymus schwanenfeldii*.

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Kerai is one of the common game fishes of Taman Negara: it is omnivorous and attains a maximum weight of 4 kg. Although it bears a similar body shape to the Stripe-tailed Tinfoil Barb, it is immediately distinguished from the latter in not having red fins. Previously all Kerai from Peninsular Malaysia were known as one species - '*Puntius daruphani*' (Mohd. Mohsin & Mohd. Azmi Ambak, 1983; Tan & Jamaluddin, 1990, as *Puntius deruphani*), or '*Puntius pierrei*' (Mohd. Salim Khan et al., 1996). After a taxonomic revision by Rainboth (1996), the genus *Hypsibarbus* was erected for this group of fishes, and not one but three species are recognised from the Pahang basin, namely *Hypsibarbus malcolmi*, *Hypsibarbus pierrei* and *Hypsibarbus wetmorei*.

Recently *Hypsibarbus wetmorei* and *Hypsibarbus pierrei* were confirmed as still being extant in the Pahang River and its tributary, the Sungai Tembeling (Zulkafli et al., 2015).

The three species, *Hypsibarbus malcolmi*, *Hypsibarbus pierrei* and *Hypsibarbus wetmorei*, are distinguished by the number of scales around the caudal peduncle (16 scales for *Hypsibarbus malcolmi* and 14 for *Hypsibarbus pierrei* and *Hypsibarbus wetmorei*). The latter two species are distinguished from each other by the number of serrae along the hind margin of the last dorsal fin spine (9-15 for *Hypsibarbus wetmorei* and 15-19 for *Hypsibarbus pierrei*) [see Rainboth, 1996]. Unfortunately, these characters cannot be reliably discerned from Fig. 2, and we prefer to leave the species unidentified.



Fig. 2. Kerai, *Hypsibarbus* sp.

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Fig. 3. Apollo Shark-minnow, *Luciosoma* sp.

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Two species of Apollo Shark-minnow, *Luciosoma setigerum* and *Luciosoma trinema*, are known from the Pahang basin and Taman Negara (Mohd. Zakaria-Ismail, 1984; Mohd. Salim-Khan et al., 1996). Both have similar colour pattern and the only reliable way of telling them apart is the presence of long barbels at the mouth of *Luciosoma setigerum*. (see Kottelat et al., 1993). Although barbels appear to be absent on the fish illustrated in Fig. 3, which is characteristic of *Luciosoma trinema*, there is a possibility these may be folded against the side of the head while the fish is in forward motion. Therefore, we are not able to determine the specific identity of the subject.

References:

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