

Banded Jewel Cichlid (*Hemichromis elongatus*), a new alien fish record from Peninsular Malaysia

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Photographs by: Tan Heok Hui.
Subject identified by: Tan Heok Hui.

Location: Stream at base of Bukit Larut, Taiping, Perak, Peninsular Malaysia.
Elevation: 50 metres.
Habitat: Disturbed secondary forest, flowing clear water over sand and rock substrate.
Date and time: 04 January 2009, 08:50hrs.

Identity of subject: Banded Jewel Cichlid, *Hemichromis elongatus* (Pisces: Perciformes: Cichlidae).

Description of record: A single fish of 5 cm length (Fig. 1) and some smaller juveniles were caught with a hand net from amongst the submerged rocks in a hill stream at the base of Bukit Larut (Fig. 2). Other inhabitants of the same stream included: *Barbodes banksi*, *Devario regina*, *Rasbora vulgaris* (Cyprinidae), *Clarias leiacanthus* (Clariidae), *Monopterus javanicus* (Synbranchidae), *Oxyeleotris marmorata* (Eleotridae) and *Betta pugnax* (Osphronemidae). The syntopic fish are all native species.



Fig. 1.

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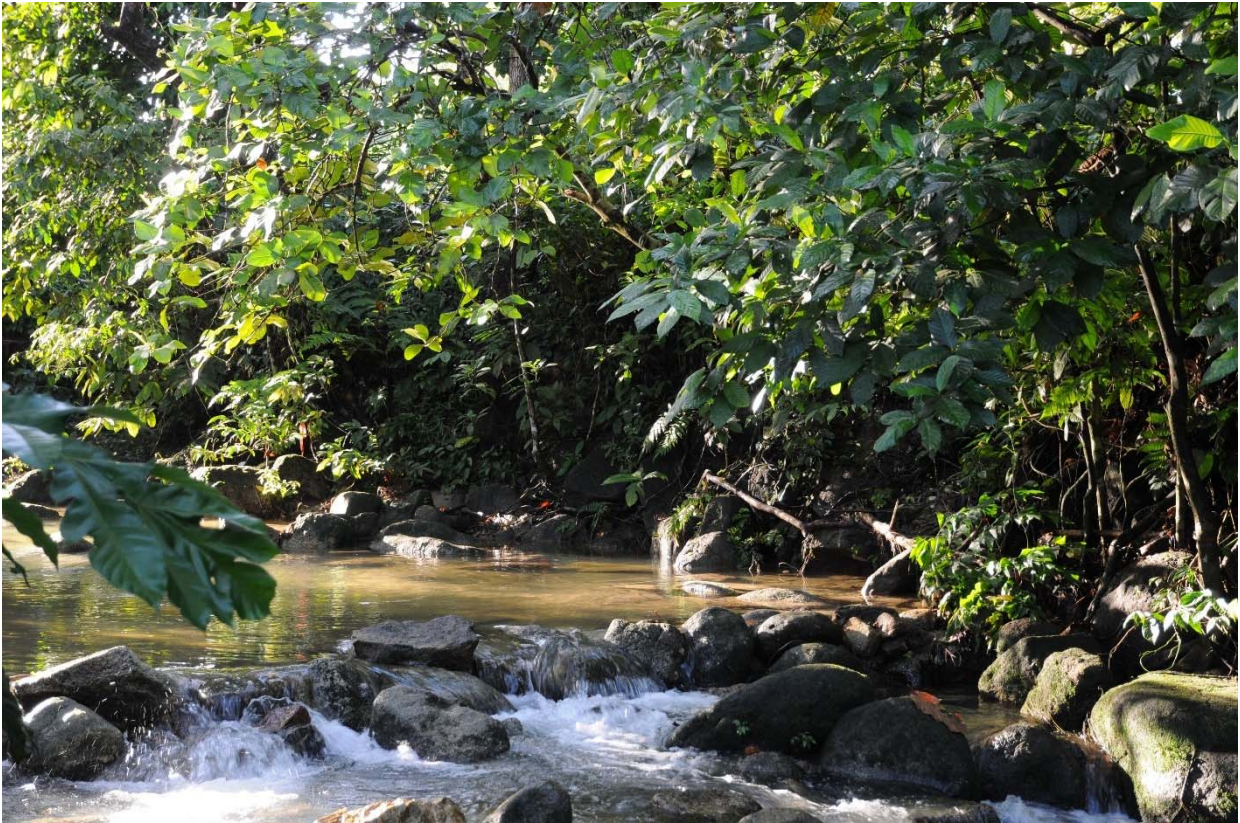


Fig. 2.

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Remarks: This introduced fish originates from tropical Africa, and is an aggressive piscivore (seriouslyfish.com). It inhabits various water bodies including rivers, streams, ponds and even brackish waters. It is a substrate spawner and exhibits biparental care of young. The presence of this fish in the wild will be of serious conservation concern if it establishes a viable population and spreads. A highly likely route of introduction of this species is through the ornamental fish trade.

References:

seriouslyfish.com <https://www.seriouslyfish.com/species/hemichromis-elongatus/> (accessed on 23 August 2018).