

Field survey of freshwater fishes in Upper Wang River, North Thailand

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ABSTRACT

The present paper reports a fields survey of freshwater fish in Upper Wang River, at Jae Hom District, Lumpang Province, North Thailand in September 2013. We found 11 families and 16 species of freshwater fishes. *Hampala macrolepidota* Kuhl et van Hasselt, 1823 and *Mystacoleucus marginatus* (Valenciennes, 1842) (Cypriniformes Cyprinidae) are dominant in transparent and running fast stream ecosystem while *Pangio anguillaris* (Vaillant, 1902) (Cypriniformes Cobitidae) is a dominant in turbid and running slowly stream ecosystem. One species, *Channa cf. gachua* (Hamilton, 1822) (Perciformes Channidae), still has an unclear taxonomic status. The Thai local names and distribution data of freshwater fishes are provided.

KEY WORDS

freshwater fishes; Wang River; Lumpang Province; Thailand.

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INTRODUCTION

Wang River is a tributary of Chao Phraya Basin, it originates at the Phi Pan Nam Mountain Range, Wiang Pa Pao District, Chiang Rai Province, North Thailand. The river flows from north to south, from Chiang Rai Province to Lumpang Province, southward passing into the Tak Province, Northwest Thailand. The Wang River System is altogether 335 kilometers (208 miles) long. It joins the Ping River near Ban Tak District, Tak Province and The Ping River is itself a tributary of the Chao Phraya River System (Vidthayanon et al., 1997).

The Wang Basin is part of the Ping Basin and the Chao Phraya Watershed. The total land area drained by the Wang River and its tributaries is 10,792 square kilometres (4,167 square miles). The geography of upper Wang River is a plain hill and a little flat land, but the lower area is relatively flat

(The Working Group of the Office of Natural Water Resources Committee of Thailand, nd.). Upper Wang River is characterized by its own ecological features which differentiate it from the other river systems of Thailand. Although it is certainly of interest, nevertheless is poorly investigated and little is known about freshwater fishes occurring in this area. The survey project on freshwater fishes of the Upper Wang River at Jae Hom District, Lumpang Province, North Thailand (Figs. 1-3) was carried out in September 2013. We separated this area into 3 regions in accordance to the ecosystems; namely:

1. Main stream under Kio Kho Ma Dam (Fig. 2). The average width of the stream is about 15 m, average depth is less than 1 m, the bottom is a combination of sand, gravel and large rock, the stream is transparent and running fast.

2. Main stream in Ban Hui Sa Nao, Jae Hom District, Lumpang Province (Fig. 3). The average



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Figures 1–3. Study area, Upper Wang River, Lumpang Province, North Thailand.

width of the stream is about 20 m, average depth is about 1 m, the bottom is a combination of clay and sandy mud, the stream is turbid and running slowly.

3. Main stream in Ban Mae Ta Lung, Jae Hom District, Lumpang Province. The average width of the stream is about 10 m, average depth is less than 1 m, the bottom is a combination of sandy mud and gravel, the stream is rather transparent (transparency is about 70 cm) and running fast.

ACRONYMS. Standard length (SL).

RESULTS

SYSTEMATICS

Order OSTEGLLOSSIFORMES L.S. Berg, 1940
Family NOTOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859

Notopterus notopterus (Pallas, 1769)
Bronze featherback

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from India Sub-continent to South East Asia

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla sa lad.

Order CYPRINIFORMES Bleeker, 1859
Family CYPRINIDAE Cuvier, 1817

Hampala macrolepidota Kuhl et van Hasselt, 1823
Hampala barb

DISTRIBUTION. This species (Fig. 4) is known from Chao Phraya Basin, Thailand; Mekong Basin, Indochina; Malay Peninsula and Indonesia.

REMARKS. This species is dominant in transparent and running fast streams. In Thailand, *H. macrolepidota* is a fish predominantly of clear and fast flowing streams and rivers, but sometimes can be found in reservoir and standing water (Kottelat, 2001).

THAI LOCAL NAME Pla kra soob ked.

Mystacoleucus marginatus (Valenciennes, 1842)
Indian river barb

DISTRIBUTION. This species (Fig. 5) is known from Myanmar to Indonesia.

REMARKS. This species is dominant in transparent and running fast streams. In Thailand, *M. marginatus* can be found in many hill streams with sand, gravel or large rocks and can be found in reservoir and large running fast rivers (Kottelat, 1998).

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla kee yok or Pla num lung.

Labiobarbus siamensis (Sauvage, 1881)
Long finned barb

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Chao Phraya Basin and Bankpakong, Thailand; Mekong Basin, Indochina.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla sar.

Family COBITIDAE Swainson, 1838

Acanthopsoidea gracilentus (Smith, 1945)
Horseface loach

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Chao Phraya Basin and Maeklong Basin, Thailand; Mekong Basin, Indochina.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla larg kluy kae.

Pangio anguillaris (Vaillant, 1902)
Loach

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Chao Phraya Basin, Thailand; Mekong basins, Indochina; Malay Peninsula; Sumatra and Borneo, Indonesia.

REMARKS. This species is dominant in turbid and running slowly streams. In the nature, *P. anguillaris* lives in peat swamp, inhabits sand, mud or leaf-litter in slow running streams (Rainboth, 1996).

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla sai thong.

Order SILURIFORMES Cuvier, 1816
Family BAGRIDAE Bleeker, 1858

Hemibagrus nemurus (Valenciennes, 1840)
Yellow mystus

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Myanmar; Thailand; Indochina; Malaysia and Indonesia.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla kod luang.

Mystus singaringan (Bleeker, 1846)
Long fatty finned mystus

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Thailand; Indochina; Malay Peninsula; Sumatra, Borneo, and Java, Indonesia.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla ka yang bai kow.

Order BELONIFORMES L.S. Berg, 1937
Family BELONIDAE Bonaparte, 1835

Xenentodon cancila (F. Hamilton, 1822)
Freshwater garfish

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from India Sub-continent to Southeast Asia. Introduced in America.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla kra tung hav.

Order SYNBRANCHIFORMES J.S. Nelson, 1994
Family MASTACEMBELIDAE



Figures 4, 5. Dominant species of freshwater fishes found in study area. *Hampala macrolepidota*, 141 mm SL (Fig. 4) and *Mystacoleucus marginatus*, 98 mm SL (Fig. 5).

Mastacembelus favus Hora, 1924
Tire track eel

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Thailand to Malay Peninsula.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla kra ting.

Order PERCIFORMES Bleeker, 1859
Family AMBASSIDAE Klunzinger, 1870

Parambassis siamensis (Fowler, 1937)
Siamese glassfish

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Indochina to Malay Peninsula; introduced in Singapore and Indonesia.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla pan ghav.

Family NANDIDAE Bleeker, 1852

Pristolepis fasciata (Bleeker, 1851)
Malayan leaf-fish

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Myanmar to Indonesia.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla mor chang yab.

Family OSPHRONEMIDAE Bleeker, 1859

Trichopsis vittata (Cuvier, 1831)
Croaking gourami

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Myanmar to Indonesia.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla sev kvay.

Family ELEOTRIDAE Bonaparte, 1835

Oxyeleotris marmorata (Bleeker, 1852)
Marble goby

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Thailand to Philippines.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla bu sai.

Family CHANNIDAE Fowler, 1934

Channa cf. gachua (Hamilton, 1822)
Dwarf snakehead

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from India Sub-continent to Southeast Asia.

REMARKS. In Thailand, the taxonomic status of this taxon is still unclear, being reported from time to time as *C. gachua* or *C. limbata*.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla gung.

Channa striata (Bloch, 1793)
Striped snakehead

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from Pakistan, India Sub-continent to Southeast Asia and China; introduced in Europe, Africa, America, Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Korea.

THAI LOCAL NAME. Pla chon.

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