

# *Parosphromenus barbarae*, a new species of Licorice Gourami from Sarawak, Borneo (Teleostei: Osphronemidae)

TAN HEOK HUI<sup>1</sup> & JONGKAR GRINANG<sup>2, \*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore, 2 Conservatory Drive, Singapore 117377; heokhui@nus.edu.sg and Honorary Research Associate, Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia. — <sup>2</sup> Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia — \* Corresponding author; email: gjongkar@unimas.my

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## Abstract

In Sarawak, there are two main populations of *Parosphromenus* known, the eastern population linked to the Rejang River basin being *P. allani*, and the western population linked to the Batang Kayan basin, is herein described as *P. barbarae*, new species. *Parosphromenus barbarae* differs from its most similar species, *P. allani*, in having a distinct black ocellus on caudal-fin base, indistinct dark brown ocellus on posterior base of dorsal-fin; presence of clearly demarcated subdistal hyaline band on anal fin (vs. faint); dorsal-fin rays XI–XIV, 4–5 (total count 15–18, mode 17); anal-fin rays XI–XIII, 6–10 (total count 19–21, mode 21); lateral scales 29–31½ (mode 29).

## Key words

Allopatric speciation, Anabantiformes, biodiversity, peat swamps, Southeast Asia.

## Introduction

*Parosphromenus* is a genus of small-sized labyrinth fish, not growing larger than 30–35 mm SL, endemic to Sundaland (KOTTELAT & NG, 1998; 2005). The history of species discovery and taxonomic issues have been detailed by KOTTELAT & NG (1998; 2005). They are stenotopic inhabitants of acidic water swamp forest streams and peat swamp habitats. Their distribution is very patchy and restricted to lowlands. Currently, there are 20 described species of *Parosphromenus* (fide Kottelat & Ng, 2005; Schindler & Linke, 2012). Six species (*P. alfredi* Kottelat & Ng, 2005, *P. harveyi* Brown, 1987, *P. nagyi* Schaller, 1985, *P. paludicola* Tweedie, 1952, *P. tweediei* Kottelat & Ng, 2005, *P. rubrimontis* Kottelat & Ng, 2005) are restricted to Malay Peninsula; five species (*P. bintan* Kottelat & Ng, 1998, *P. deissneri* (Bleeker, 1859), *P. gunawani* Schindler & Linke, 2012, *P. phoenicurus* Schindler & Linke, 2012, *P. sumatranus* Klausewitz, 1955) are located in Sumatra and its islands; and nine species (*P. allani*

Brown, 1987, *P. anjunganensis* Kottelat, 1991, *P. filamentosus* Vierke, 1981, *P. linkei* Kottelat, 1991, *P. opalios* Kottelat & Ng, 2005, *P. ornaticauda* Kottelat, 1991, *P. pahuensis* Kottelat & Ng, 2005, *P. parvulus* Vierke, 1979, *P. quindecim* Kottelat & Ng, 2005) are restricted to Borneo.

BROWN & BROWN (1987) conducted a labyrinth fish (specifically looking for *Betta* and *Parosphromenus*) survey in Sarawak. However, due to different objectives, they only kept living material that they subsequently bred in captivity. From that survey material, *Parosphromenus allani* had been described by BROWN in 1987, and subsequently *Betta brownorum* was described by WITTE & SCHMIDT in 1992. In BROWN & BROWN'S 1987 survey, they discovered three main populations of *Parosphromenus*. One population (type locality of *P. allani*; listed as 1/86/B&B and 17/86/B&B; basically the same general location) found along the outskirts of Sibu town, one