



Pseudomugil ivantsoffi - photo© Charles Nishihira

Pseudomugil ivantsoffi

Allen and Renyaan, 1999
Ivantsoff Blue-eye

Species Summary

The head and body of male *Pseudomugil ivantsoffi* is semitransparent, often with a bluish or reddish hue. Iris of eye intensely blue. The opercle, abdomen and swim bladder region are silvery. The upper half of first dorsal and anterior half of second dorsal fins, and edge of anal fin are bright red. The dorsal and ventral contour posterior to second dorsal and anal fins edged with similar red; the upper and lower third of caudal fin also red. The pelvic fins are pinkish. The edges of some scales on abdomen with narrow black margins. Females overall semitransparent, lacking bright red shades of male; opercle, abdomen and swim bladder region silvery; some scales on anterior half of body with faint, fine black margins; fins mainly translucent to faintly yellowish, the outer tips of the first and second dorsal fins yellow. This is a small species, slender and laterally compressed, growing to a length of around 3 cm SL. Named "ivantsoffi" in honour of Walter Ivantsoff, of Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, in recognition of his valuable contributions to the knowledge of atherinoid taxonomy.

This fish was initially identified as *Pseudomugil reticulatus*, based on the close resemblance of females from the Timika area to the single known example of that species collected about two kilometres east of Ayamaru (Ajamaru) Lake in the centre of the Vogelkop Peninsula. However, recent collections near the type locality of *Pseudomugil reticulatus*, which lies some 900 km northwest of Timika, revealed that the two populations are distinctive.

Distribution & Habitat

Pseudomugil ivantsoffi are found in the tributaries of the Ajkwa, Iwaka and Kopi Rivers in the Timika-Tembagapura region of West Papua. The habitats consist of small (1~2 m wide) shallow, slow-flowing streams in dense rainforest. Water is generally clear, but some are tannin stained, with sparse aquatic vegetation. Bottom conditions included sand, gravel, cobble, and rocks. Water temperature and pH values ranged from 24~28°C and pH 6.7~7.8 respectively. Other fishes collected from these habitats include *Pseudomugil pellucidus*, *Pseudomugil novaeguineae*, *Melanotaenia goldiei*, *Melanotaenia rubrostriata*, and *Melanotaenia ogilbyi*.

The Timika region includes the following rivers: Kamora River (Kamora, Tuaba, Wataikwa, Iwaka) Wania River, Tipuka River, Ajkwa River, Minajerwi River (Minajerwi, Kopi, Aimua) Mawati River, Otokwa River, Mamoia River (Mamoia, Seruka) Atuka River (Atuka, Wapuka) [The Atuka River meanders north to its junction with the Kamora River, very close to the village of Mioko.]

The dark colouration in 'blackwater' streams is due to the presence of organic substances. This black or tea colouration (these rivers are called kali kopi in Indonesian, or coffee stream - kali is Indonesian for river) is quite common in the area, due to extensive heath forest. These streams start in the heath and are shorter and narrower than the rivers which begin in the mountains and have enough volume from rainfall to dissolve the colouration. The blackwater streams all drain into the rivers.



Pseudomugil ivantsoffi - photo© Charles Nishihira

Remarks

In 2004, Iain Wilson and Charles Nishihira collected live specimens of this species from Kali Iwaka (Deky Creek) and Kali Kopi, along with specimens of *Pseudomugil novaeguineae*, *Pseudomugil pellucidus*, *Melanotaenia goldiei* and *Melanotaenia rubrostriata*. Live specimens have also been collected Heiko Bleher. Although a very attractive species if kept under suitable conditions, they are rarely seen in the retail aquarium trade and are mainly kept by a few aquarists who are principally interested in Australian-New Guinea fishes.

Literature

Allen, G. R. and S. J. Renyaan (1999) *Pseudomugil ivantsoffi* (Pseudomugilidae), a new species of blue-eye from the Timika region, Irian Jaya. *Aqua, Journal of Ichthyology and Aquatic Biology* 3(4): 163-168.

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