

## Fishes recorded from a stream at Lambir Hills, Sarawak, Borneo

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**Photographs by:** Nick Baker.

**Subjects identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim

**Location:** Lambir Hills National Park, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo.

**Elevation:** < 150 metres.

**Habitats:** Forest stream with variable sandy/silty substrate in lowland primary forest (Fig. 1).

**Dates:** 29 September 2016 to 01 October 2016

### Identity of subjects:

- 1) Striped Barb, *Desmopuntius johorensis* (Fig. 2).
- 2) Spotted Barb, *Barbodes cf binotatus* (Fig. 3).
- 3) Headband Rasbora, *Rasbora cephalotaenia* (Fig. 4).
- 4) Hose's Rasbora, *Rasbora hosii* (Fig. 5).
- 5) North Sarawak Forest Halfbeak, *Hemirhamphodon kuekenthali* (Fig. 6).

**Description of records:** These records derive from ad-hoc visits to a stream in the eastern portion of Lambir Hills National Park, downstream of Latak Waterfall. The stream is of complex morphology and includes (i) rocky waterfalls, (ii) shallow fast-flowing sections with sandy substrate, and (iii) slow-flowing sections with silty substrate and deeper pools of up to 1 metre in depth. The stream is well shaded by intact primary forest and, in the southern portion, by areas of degraded primary forest-edge. Localised tree falls allow sunlight to break through the canopy and illuminate the stream in some areas. Fishes were photographed from the banks of the stream using a lens with a long focal length (400 mm), and thus present a dorso-lateral perspective.

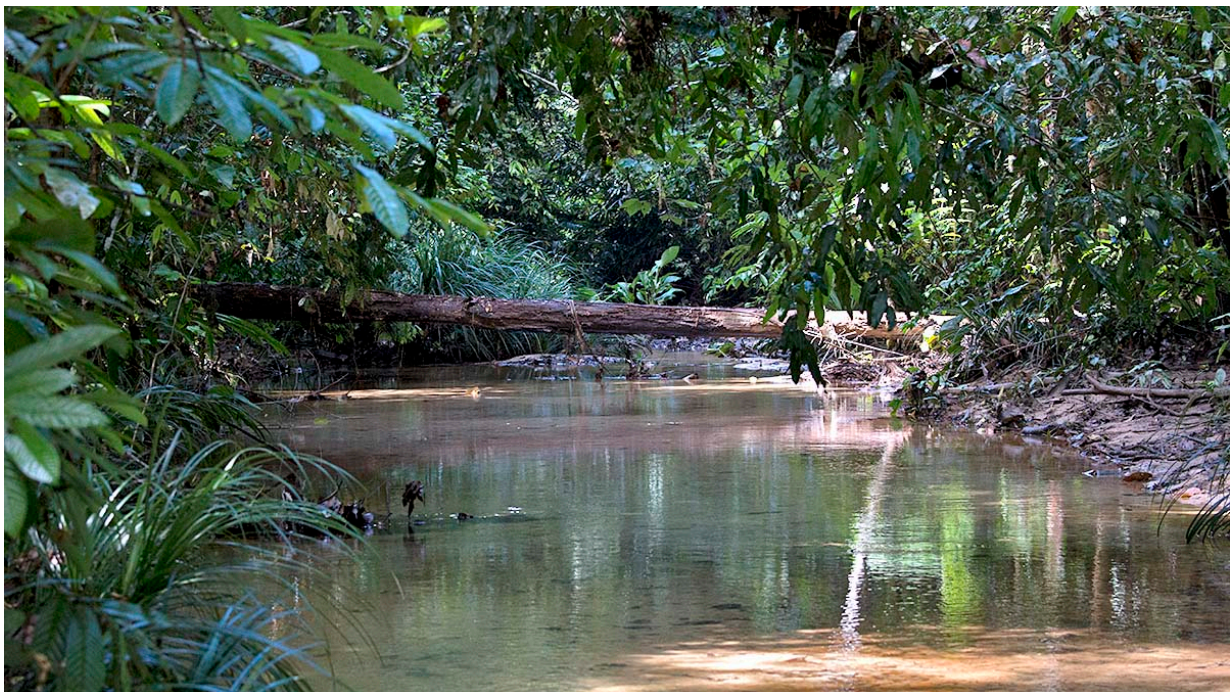


Fig. 1. Slow-flowing part of the stream, downstream of a waterfall.



Fig. 2. Striped Barb, *Desmopuntius johorensis*.



Fig. 3. Spotted Barb, *Barbodes cf. binotatus*.



Fig. 4. Headband Rasbora, *Rasbora cephalotaenia*.



Fig. 5. Hose's Rasbora, *Rasbora hosii*.



Fig. 6. North Sarawak Forest Halfbeak, *Hemirhamphodon kuekenthali*.

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**Remarks:** The freshwater fish fauna of Lambir Hills was surveyed three decades ago by Zakaria-Ismail (1984) and ten species were recorded (see also Kottelat & Lim, 1995). All are characteristic of small, shaded forest streams in the lowlands and foothills, with slightly acidic water conditions.

Apart from *Rasbora cephalotaenia*, the other four species featured here have been previously recorded from the park, although they appeared under different names. In Zakaria-Ismail (1984: 73), *Rasbora hosii* was identified as *Rasbora sumatrana*, *Barbodes* cf. *binotatus* as *Puntius binotatus* (as *Puntius banksi* in Kottelat & Lim, 1995: 232), *Desmopuntius johorensis* as *Puntius fasciatus* (*Puntius johorensis* in Kottelat & Lim, 1995: 232), and *Hemirhamphodon kuekenthali* was most likely mis-identified as a *Dermogenys* sp.

The spotted barbs are here referred to as *Barbodes* cf. *binotatus* because they have a prominent black spot at the base of the dorsal fin. Kottelat & Lim (1995: 232) had incorrectly assumed that all fishes identified as *Puntius binotatus* in Sarawak and Brunei were *Puntius banksi* (= *Barbodes banksi*) which they define as having a vertical dark bar under the dorsal fin. The species at Lambir (Fig. 3) obviously has a different colour pattern.

**References:**

Kottelat, M. & K. K. P. Lim (1995). Freshwater fishes of Sarawak and Brunei Darussalam: a preliminary annotated check-list. *Sarawak Museum Journal*, 48(69), 227-256.

Zakaria-Ismail, M. (1984). Aquatic survey including limnological characteristics and fish species composition. In: *An Ecological Survey of Lambir Hill National Park*. Departments of Botany & Zoology, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. pp. 70-75.