

## Biodiversity Record: A Singapore record of the frogmouth catfish, *Chaca bankanensis*

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**Subject:** Sunda frogmouth catfish, *Chaca bankanensis* (Teleostei: Siluriformes: Chacidae).

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

**Locations, dates and time:** Singapore in August 1938.

**Habitat:** Unknown. Presumably freshwater.

**Observer:** Collected by the Fisheries Department.

**Observation:** A preserved specimen of 150 mm standard length (Fig. 1) is in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore, and accessioned as ZRC 2334.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of *Chaca bankanensis* from Singapore [ZRC 2334]. (Photograph by: Kelvin K. P. Lim).

**Remarks:** This specimen was reported by Ng & Lim (1996), but treated as a doubtful record as it is without precise locality data, and may have been an imported ornamental fish. Curiously, this specimen was overlooked by earlier authors who reported on Singapore's freshwater fish fauna (e.g. Alfred, 1966). Across the Causeway in Johor, Malaysia, this dorso-ventrally compressed and cryptic predatory catfish has been obtained from among accumulations of leaf litter in a small and shallow tributary stream in the Endau basin (Lim et al., 1990). Similar habitats are still present on Singapore Island. Thus, it is likely that *Chaca bankanensis* may have been present, or could still be present, there, particularly in the natural streams of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. It is probably most appropriate to regard its present status in Singapore as indeterminate.

### Literature cited:

Alfred ER (1966) The fresh-water fishes of Singapore. Zoologische Verhandelingen, 78: 1–68, pls. 1–8.

Lim KKP, Ng PKL & Kottelat M (1990) On a collection of freshwater fishes from Endau-Rompin, Pahang-Johore, Peninsular Malaysia. Raffles Bulletin of Zoology, 38: 31–54.

Ng PKL & Lim KKP (1996) The freshwater fishes of Singapore. Journal of the Singapore National Academy of Science, 22–24: 109–124.