



Species Fact Sheets

Oreochromis niloticus (Linnaeus, 1758)



Oreochromis niloticus: [\(click for more\)](#)



Oreochromis niloticus: [\(click for more\)](#)

Synonyms

- *Perca nilotica* Linnaeus, 1758: 290 (original description).
- *Chromis guentheri* Steindachner, 1864: 228.
- *Tilapia eduardiana* Boulenger, 1912: 138.
- *Tilapia cancellata* Nichols, 1923: 2.
- *Tilapia calciati* Gianferrari, 1924: 242.
- *Tilapia regani* Poll, 1932: 32.
- *Tilapia vulcani* Trewavas, 1933: 315.
- *Tilapia inducta* Trewavas, 1933: 317.
- *Oreochromis niloticus filoa* Trewavas, 1983: 167.
- *Oreochromis niloticus baringoensis* Trewavas, 1983: 177.
- *Oreochromis niloticus sugutae* Trewavas, 1983: 179.
- *Tilapia nilotica* Uyeno & Fujii, 1984: 190.
- *Oreochromis niloticus tana* Seyoum & Kornfield, 1992: 2163.

FAO Names

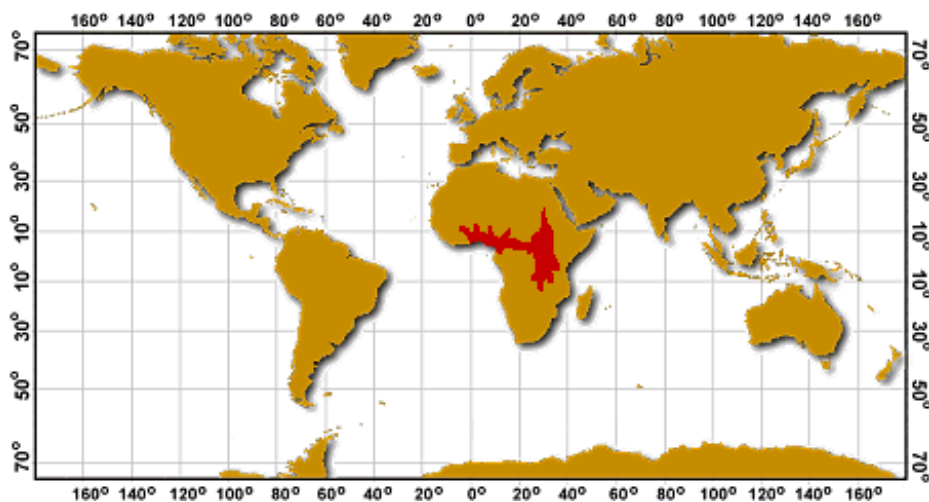
En - Nile tilapia, Fr - Tilapia du Nil, Sp - Tilapia del Nilo.

3Alpha Code: TLN Taxonomic Code: 1705905102

Diagnostic Features

Body compressed; caudal peduncle depth equal to length. Scales cycloid. A knob-like protuberance absent on dorsal surface of snout. Upper jaw length showing no sexual dimorphism. First gill arch with 27 to 33 gillrakers. Lateral line interrupted. Spinous and soft ray parts of dorsal fin continuous. Dorsal fin with 16 - 17 spines and 11 to 15 soft rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 10-11 rays. Caudal fin truncated. Colour in spawning season, pectoral, dorsal and caudal fins becoming reddish; caudal fin with numerous black bars.

Geographical Distribution



Distribution Map

Native of Africa; Eritrea, Addagalla, Harar (Ethiopia), Baringo, Crater, Kivu, Rudolf, Tana, Turkana and Buyoni Lakes, Mt. Ruwenzori, Kissenyi, Kenya, Uganda, Zaire. Introduced into Thailand for fish culture and now forms wild populations. Introduced to Japan from Africa in 1962; distributed in hot spring areas from Hokkaido to Kyushu and Okinawa, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, and India.

[🔗 Launch the Aquatic Species Distribution map viewer](#)

Habitat and Biology

Occurs at a temperature range of 8°C to 42°C, in a wide variety of freshwater habitats. Is mainly diurnal. Feeds mainly on phytoplankton or benthic algae.

Eggs and larvae nursed in mouth of female. Omnivorous, but relying more heavily on plants.

Size

To 62 cm; weight 3.650 g (reported age 9 years).

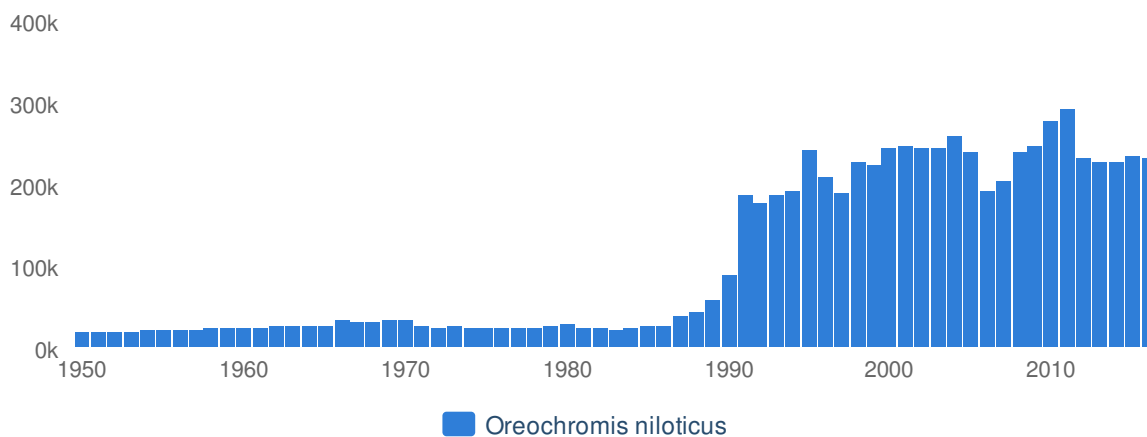
Interest to Fisheries

Caught with seines, gillnets and trawls. Cultured in hot spring areas. The total catch reported for this species to FAO for 1999 was 230 445 t. The countries with the largest catches were Egypt (112 811 t) and Thailand (53 000 t).

Marketed fresh and frozen.

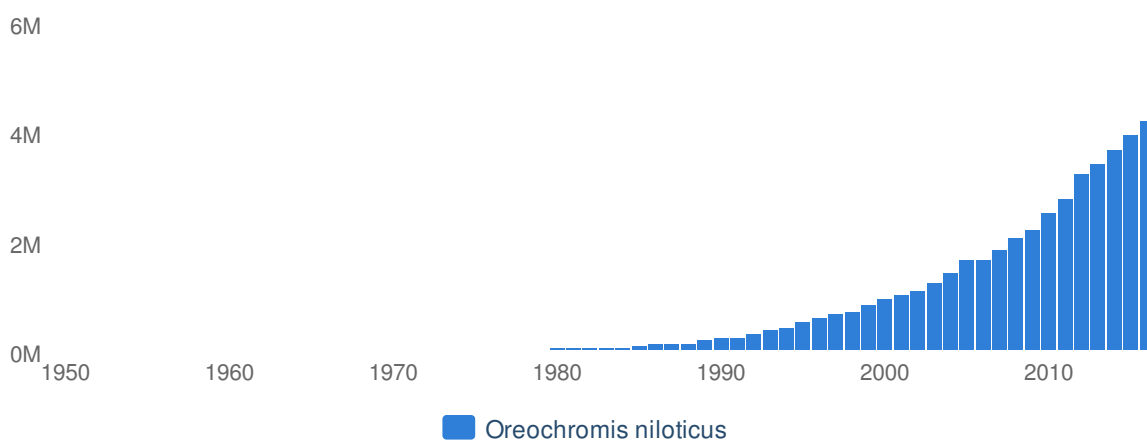
Global Capture Production for species (tonnes)

Source: [FAO FishStat](#)



Global Aquaculture Production for species (tonnes)

Source: [FAO FishStat](#)



Local Names

English : Nile mouthbrooder , Nile tilapia .

German : Tilapie .

Japanese : Chikadai , Telapia .

Khmer : Trey tilapia chhnoht .

Swedish : Munruvare .

Tagalog : Pla pla , Tilapia .

Thai : Pla nil .

Wolof : Wass .

Related links

- Check this species at FishBase

Bibliography

Froese, R. and D. Pauly. Editors. 2003. FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication. www.fishbase.org

Rainboth, W.L. - 1996FAO species identification field guide for fishery purposes. Fishes of the Cambodian Mekong. Rome, FAO. 1996: 265 pp.

Uyeno, T. & E. Fujii. - 1984 Cichlidae. In: H. Masuda; K. Amaoka; C. Araga; T. Uyeno; T. Yoshino (eds.). The Fishes of the Japanese Archipelago. Tokai. Univ. Press. 190-191.

