

OCCIDENTALIS: CALLOPANCHAX OCCIDENTALIS



CURRENT NAME: ***Callopanchax occidentalis***

describer(s), year: **(Clausen, 1966)**

IDENTITY:

Family-groups: Nothobranchiidae Garman, 1895: Epiplatinae
Huber, 2000: Callopanchini Huber, 2000
Genus: *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933
Species: *occidentalis*
Abbreviated extended name: *Cal. occidentalis*
Original name: *Aphyosemion occidentale*
Original description: Clausen, H.S. 1966. Definition of a new Cyprinodont Genus and Description of a "new" but well known west African Cyprinodont, with a Clarification of the Term "sjoestedti". Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr., 74 (3-4): 331, figs. 1-3.
Type locality: Blama, Sierra Leone.
Types series: Holotype: ZMUC (Copenhagen) P352572 (male).
Paratypes: whereabouts unknown.
Discoverer(s): Grote, June 9., 1909 on Sherboro Island, off the coast of Sierra Leone (rediscovery: Erhard Roloff, 1962, at Magbenta).
Etymology: western (from Latin: *occidentalis*), in reference to its status of type species of the genus *Roloffia*, distributed westerly to the genus *Aphyosemion*, from which it was split.
Gender/Accordance: [Adj.]

SYSTEMATICS:

Current status: valid sp.
Alternative status: # subsp. *occidentalis occidentalis*

Current synonyms: None.

Status evaluation (current): confirmed by several authors.
Systematic remarks: well defined, but may encompass several cryptic species (taxonomic history : consistently regarded as a distinct species since description in 1966).
Miscellaneous comments: type species of the genus ; the species has been known since the early twentieth century (Grote, 1910), but misidentified as *sjoestedti*, up to Clausen's description (1966).
Superspecies components: *huwaldi*, *monroviae*, *occidentalis*, *toddi*.
Diagnosis: a golden median band on sides of male, a closed pattern of male Caudal fin, with the lower part being broader, red phase of color pattern, dominant, blue phase rare ; female, with dark longitudinal band on mid-sides, when frightened ; the diagnosis of the 4 components of *Callopanchax* is supported by the female color pattern : in *occidentalis*, a dark line along Dorsal fin base, at about 1 third of fin and a weakly dark longitudinal band along mid-sides ; male of *occidentalis* may be separated from *toddi* by the size and position of blotches on posterior sides : concentrated on median sides in *occidentalis*, larger and from top to bottom of sides in *toddi* (Clausen, 1966 ; Berkenkamp & Etzel, 2003).

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:

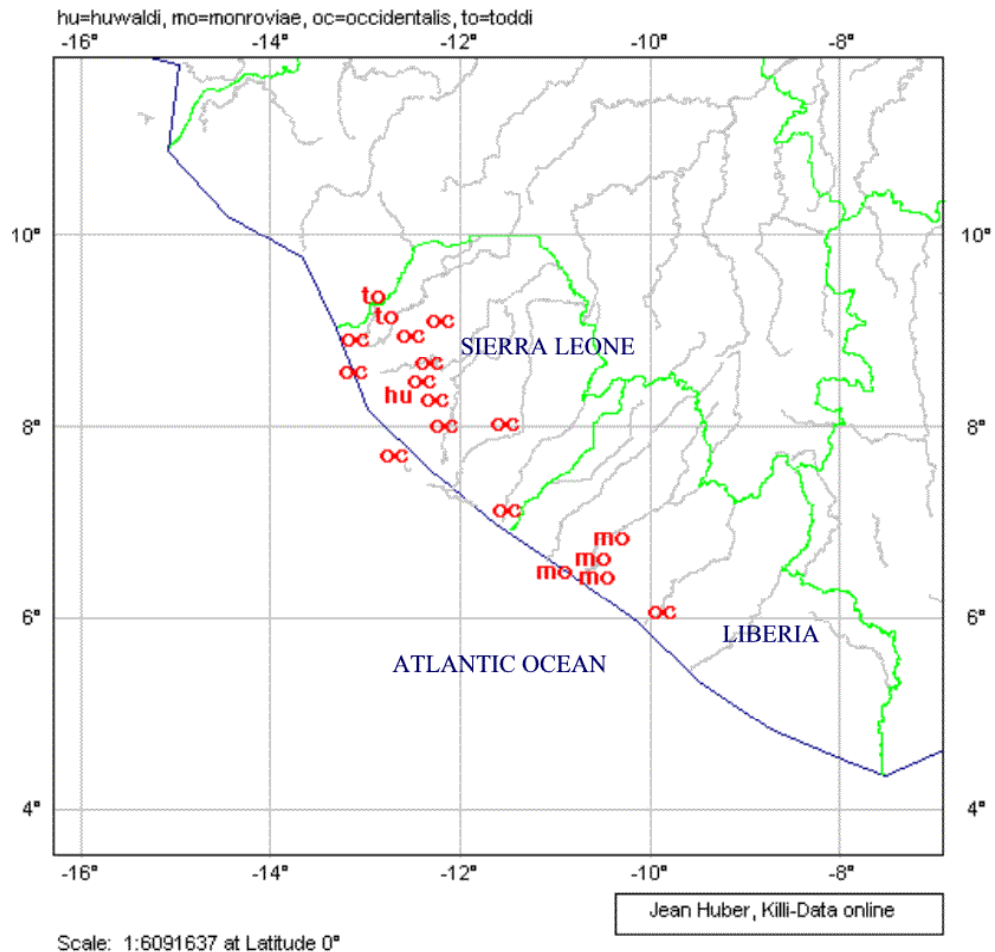
Countries of distribution: Guinée; Liberia; Sierra Leone
Range: relict in a pocket coastal region of Sierra Leone and border of southern Guinée.
Biogeographically replaced: northwesterly by *toddi*, southeasterly by *monroviae*, else by non annual *Scriptaphyosemion*.
Sympatric taxa: *Aply. spilauchen*, *Ep. bif. bifasciatus* (or *barmoiensis*), *Scr. roloffii* (or *etzeli* or *liberiense* or *fredrodi* or *geryi*), *Ep. fas. fasciolatus* (or *fas. tototaensis*, or *njalaensis*), *Ps. annulatus*, *Porop. normani* / in only one location, Njala : *toddi*.

Availability in nature (conservation status): locally endangered.
Typical landscape: coastal lowlands with pure freshwater.
Biotope coverage: primary forest (and some secondary derived forest).
Niche: temporary bodies (and dead arms of temporary creeks).
Subniche preference: deadly water on darker and dirty substratum (dead leaves, mulm).

AQUARIUM RECORDS:

First breeding aquarium record: Deutschland [Grote] from Ludwigia Hamburg Aquarium Society, 1909.
Aquarium set-up: trio, 40 litres, 3 cm coarse peat/peat fiber, bottom mop, refugees, smooth filtering, diffused light.
Difficulty of breeding and guidelines: experienced ; details of breeding: in the breeding aquarium, it is advisable to keep one male with several females, as this tends to minimize any aggression ; eggs are deposited on the substrate and the movement of the pair whilst spawning results in the eggs becoming buried beneath the substrate surface, e.g., boiled and well rinsed peat (free from fertilizers or other chemicals) ; it may be preferable to place peat in a bowl or other container (with a 5 cm hole cut on top) within the aquarium to prevent its pollution by uneaten food and to confine it ; alternatively, coarse peat or peat fiber can also be used as spawning substrate ; water must be neutral to slightly acid ; after 7 to 10 days of spawning activity, the peat containing the eggs can be removed and allowed to dry to a slightly damp state, then stored in a sealed, labeled plastic bag for the appropriate incubation period at a temperature of about 25°C ; then, the eggs can be examined and, if the embryos are fully developed (the eyes of the embryos should be clearly and sharply visible), the peat with the eggs is immersed in water at a temperature several degrees cooler than that at which the eggs were stored : the fry will usually hatch within a few hours ("instant fish"); the peat is re-dried and stored for another 3 to 4 weeks to allow the development of any remaining eggs : wetting the re-dried peat may produce a further hatching of fry ; growth is not very quick for an annual species ; separating the males and females as soon as they become sexable is preferable, unless the sex ratio is strongly imbalanced (in that case, isolating unsexed fry by groups of 3 to 5 in separate aquariums is advised to obtain equilibrium).
Life cycle: annual.
Aquarium populations: Benguema, Blama, Bom, Bonthe, Brama-Town, Foyah, Gbahama, Kabak, Kenema, Koke, Kumrabaï, Ma Barie, Mabeimah, Magbenta, Magbundus, Makeni, Makuri, Malai, Mangata, Mogbomoh, Njala, Robis I, Ro-Ciente, Rommi, Sherboro, Sowaja River, Teme Yellah, Tienii
Max. size of male (cm): 9.0

MAP OF COLLECTING SPOTS (selected taxon plus possibly related taxa and uncertain synonyms /?' = aff., sp.):



Reversed name (cf. legends and abbreviations in "FRAMEWORK"): *occidentalis* Cal.
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