

# 1 2 ICHTHYOFAUNA OF ENDEMIC FISH IN TOWUTI LAKE, 3 LUWU TIMUR REGENCY, SOUTH SULAWESI, INDONESIA

## 4 5 6 7 ABSTRACT (ARIAL, BOLD, 11 FONT, LEFT ALIGNED, CAPS) 8

**Aims :** The aims of this study to determine the biodiversity of endemic fish in Lake Towuti, Luwu Timur Regency South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

**Study Design:** The research was conducted by survey

**Place and Duration of study :** The research was carried out in February until March 2021 in Tanjung Timbala; Tanjung Lengkobutanga; Tanjung Bakara; Tanjung Saone and. Tanjung Tominanga at Lake Towuti, Luwu Timur Regency South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

**Methodology :** Fish samples were carried out every week using a trap net for 8 weeks. Fish samples obtained from each station were separated according to species. Fish samples were preserved with 4% formalin and then immersed in 70% alcohol before species identification was conducted. Data analysis in this research used descriptive statistics.

**Results:** The endemic fish species was found is *telamtherina bonti* *Telmatherina bonti*, *Telmatherina celebensis*, *Paratherina striata*, *Tominanga sanguicauda*, *Tominanga aurea* *Oryzias profundicola*, *Oryzias matanensis*, *Oryzias marmoratus*, *Mugilogobius hitam*, *Glossogobius flavipinnis*, *Glossogobius matanensis* and *Dermogenys megarhamphus*. The percentage of endemic fish caught at each station on Lake Towuti was different. The water quality parameters obtained are as follows Temperature: 26.40°C-30.30°C, pH: 6.35-9.03, dissolved oxygen (DO): 6.25-8.95 mg/L and NO<sub>3</sub>-N: 0.023-0.066 mg/L. This water quality were suitable for the survival and growth of endemic fish.

**Conclusion:** Endemic fish families were obtained such as *Telmatheridae*, *Adrianichthyidae*, *Gobiidae* and *Hemiramphidae* and a total of twelve endemic fish species were found in this study. The number of endemic fish was found to be different at the station. Water quality parameters play an important role in the distribution and existence of endemic fish in Lake Towuti.

9  
10 **Keywords:** endemic fish, diversity, ichthyofauna, Towuti Lake,  
11

## 12 1. INTRODUCTION

13 Indonesia is unique and interesting for endemic fish species because it is located along the  
14 equator which was influenced by the biogeography of the Asian continent and the Australian  
15 continent [1]. The endemic fish in Indonesia have characteristics of different ecologically  
16 and climatologically [1,2]. Lake endemics fish in Sulawesi are known from Lakes Poso, Lindu  
17 and the Malili Lakes system in Central Sulawesi [3,4,5]. In other regions of Indonesia which  
18 are good habitats for various endemic fish species such as Lake Sentani [6].

19 In Malili Lake Complex at South Sulawesi, Indonesia, three lakes are interconnected in a  
20 casacade, namely Matano, Mahalona and Towuti lakes. Lake Matano in the upper reaches,  
21 Lake Mahalona in the middle, and Lake Towuti in the lower reaches. Lake Matano and Lake  
22 Towuti are ancient lake in South Sulawesi. Lake Towuti were covered an area of 561.1 km<sup>2</sup>,  
23 maximum depth of 203 m and it was located at an altitude of 293 m asl [7]. There are 15  
24 endemic fish species were found in Lake towuti [8], 20 species [9] and 17 species [5]. These  
25 endemic fish were included in the family of *Telmatherinidae*, *Adrianichthyidae*,  
26 *Zenarchopteridae*, *Phallostethidae*, *Eleotridae*, *Gobiidae*, *Terapontidae*, *Anguillidae* [4,5].  
27 Endemic fish in Towuti Lake were used as a source of food called "pangkilang".

28 Lake Towuti has become one of the hotspots of biodiversity, it needs attention because it  
29 was increased of threatened [4,10]. These condition is caused by several factors such as  
30 overfishing and intensive fishing [8], introduced fish or invasive fish [11, 12], the waters of  
31 Lake Towuti were polluted. from saw-mill waste and forest logging both legally and illegally  
32 [13]. The extinction of freshwater fish stocks in waters is largely due to habitat destruction /  
33 loss (35%), the introduction of exotic species (30%) and overexploitation of species (4%)  
34 and the rest due to water pollution and global warming [14].

35 All of these things in the waters of Lake Towuti were reduced the population and diversity  
36 of endemic fish and this can lead to extinction [13]. The condition of the endemic fish  
37 population in Lake Towuti in 1993 was found 52 species and in 2003 only 28 species were  
38 found [12]. In the Malili Lake Complex, 18 endemic fish species were categorized as  
39 endangered fish species based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),  
40 2001 [10] and need to be protected by law [15] and protection of their species and habitat  
41 through conservation [16,17], and domestication [18]. The existence of endemic fish both  
42 from an economic and ecological perspective in Lake Towuti is very important, therefore  
43 the aims of this study to determine the biodiversity of endemic fish in Lake Towuti, Luwu  
44 Timur Regency, South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

45

## 46 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

47

### 48 2.1. Study area

49

50 The research was conducted in Lake Towuti, East Luwu Regency, South Sulawesi Province  
51 in February until March 2021. The research stations in Lake Towuti are A: Tanjung Timbala  
52 (2°42.5720'S 121°25.7850'E), B: Tanjung Lengkobutanga (2°42.6150'S 121°26.3990'E), C:  
53 Tanjung Bakara (2°41.3470'S 121°25.5330'E), D: Tanjung Saone (2°38.5840'S  
54 121°27.7510'E), E: Tanjung Tominanga (2°39.2770'S 121°29.9350'E) (Figure 1).  
55



56

57 **Fig. 1. Research location: A: Tanjung Timbala B: Tanjung Lengkobutanga, C: Tanjung**  
58 **Bakara, D: Tanjung Saone, and E: Tanjung Tominanga**

59

## 60 2.2. Materials

61 The research materials were samples of endemic fish, 4% formalin and 70% alcohol. The  
62 equipment used is a boat, seser (fishing gear), a Global Positioning System (GPS), cool box,  
63 freezer, zoom (magnifying glass), plastic bags, camera, pH meter and DO meter.

## 64 2.3. Methods

66 Fish samples were taken at each research station in Lake Towuti. Fish samples were  
67 caught weekly using a seser is a local name (trap net) for eight weeks. The number of fish  
68 species were caught at each station is counted. Fish samples were preserved with 4%  
69 formalin and then immersed in 70% alcohol before species identification was conducted.  
70 Identification of species was carried out according to [11,19,20,21, 22]. Data analysis in this  
71 research used descriptive statistics.

## 72 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 73 3.1. Composition of Endemic Fish Species

75 The species of fish sampled at the research station in Lake Towuti, the endemic fish  
76 that were collected of twelve species belonging to four families (Table 1) and (Figure 2).

78  
79 **Table 1. Endemic fish species at each research station**



No	Family	Species	A	B	C	D	E
1	Telmatheridae	<i>Telmatherina bonti</i>	+	+	+	+	+
2		<i>Telmatherina celebensis</i>	+	+	+	+	+
3		<i>Paratherina striata</i>	+	+	+	+	+
4		<i>Tominanga sanguicauda</i>	+	+	+	+	+
5		<i>Tominanga aurea</i>	+	+	+	+	+
6	Adrianichthyidae	<i>Oryzias profundicola</i>	+	+	+	+	+
7		<i>Oryzias matanensis</i>	+	+	+	+	+
8		<i>Oryzias marmoratus</i>	+	+	+	+	+
9	Gobiidae	<i>Mugilogobius hitam</i>	-	+	+	+	+
10		<i>Glossogobius flavipinnis</i>	+	-	+	+	-
11		<i>Glossogobius matanensis</i>	+	-	+	+	-
12	Hemiramphidae	<i>Dermogenys megarhamphus</i>	+	+	-	-	-

80 **Station description.** A: TanjungTimbala, B: Tanjung Lengkobutanga, C: Tanjung Bakara,  
81 and D: Tanjung Saone, E: Tanjung Tominanga

82

	<p><i>Oryzias profundicola</i>  Status IUCN Red List:  <a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/15578/90980796">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/15578/90980796</a>  Downloaded on 24 April 2021.</p>
	<p><i>Oryzias matanensis</i>  Status IUCN Red List:  <a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/15575/90980691">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/15575/90980691</a>  Downloaded on 24 April 2021.</p>
	<p><i>Oryzias marmoratus</i>  Status IUCN Red  List:<a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/15574/90980644">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/15574/90980644</a>  Downloaded on 24 April 2021</p>
	<p><i>Paratherina striata</i>  Status IUCN Red List:  <a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/16195/90979932">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/16195/90979932</a>  Downloaded on 24 April 2021</p>
	<p><i>Telmatherina bonti</i>  Status IUCN Red  List:<a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21572/90980062">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21572/90980062</a>  Downloaded on 24 April 2021</p>
	<p><i>Telmatherina celebensis</i>  Status IUCN Red  List:<a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21573/90980085">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21573/90980085</a>  Downloaded on 24 April 2021</p>
	<p><i>Tominanga sanguicauda</i>  Status IUCN Red  List:<a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21980/90980344">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21980/90980344</a>  Downloaded on 24 April 2021</p>



	<p><i>Tominanga aurea</i>  Status IUCN Red List: <a href="https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.20192.RLTS.T21979A90980310.en">https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.20192.RLTS.T21979A90980310.en</a> .  Downloaded on 24 April 2021</p>
	<p>Status IUCN Red  List: <a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/40707/90982306">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/40707/90982306</a>  Downloaded on 24 April 2021</p>
	<p><i>Glossogobius matanensis</i>  Status IUCN Red  List: <a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/9254/90982434">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/9254/90982434</a>  Downloaded on 24 April 2021</p>
	<p><i>Mugilogobius hitam</i>  Status IUCN Red  List: <a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/90982932/90982936">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/90982932/90982936</a>  Downloaded on 24 April 2021</p>
	<p><i>Dermogenys megarhamphus</i>  Status IUCN Red  List: <a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/90981984/90981998">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/90981984/90981998</a>  Downloaded on 24 April 2021</p>

**Fig. 2. Endemic fish species were found in Lake Towuti**

Endemic fish species from the Telmatherinidae family that were found during the study were : *Telmatherina bonti*, *Telmatherina celebensis*, *Paratherina striata*, *Tominanga sanguicauda*, *Tominanga aurea* in all research stations, while the Adrianichthyidae family included *Oryzias profundicola*, *Oryzias matanensis*, and *Oryzias marmoratus*. The family Gobiidae included *Mugilogobius hitam* at stations B, C, D, E; *Glossogobius flavipinnis* was found at stations A, C and D; *Glossogobius matanensis* was found at stations A, C and D. The Hemiramphidae family was only found at *Dermogenys megarhamphus* at stations A and B (Figure 1).

The results of research conducted at Lake Towuti by [8] found several endemic fish such as *Glossogobius intermedius*, *Glossogobius celebius*, *Glossogobius flavipinnis*, *Dermogenys megarhamphus*, *Dermogenys sp*, *Oryzias marmoratus*, *Telmatherina bonti*, *Telmatherina celebensis*, *Paratherina sp*, *Telmatherina sp* (red tail), *Telmatherina sp* (yellow tail), and *Tominanga sanguicauda*. Meanwhile, the article report on endemic fish in Lake Towuti by

[10] as follows: *Dermogenys mearhamphus*, *redigobius penango*, *Glossogobius flavipinnis*, *Glossogobius biocellatus*, *Glossogobius intermedius*, *Glossogobius celebius*, *Mugilogobius adeia*, *Mugilogobius lepidotus*, *Mugilogobius rexi*, *Mugilogobius hitam*, *Telamtherina bonti*, *Telamtherina celebensis*, *Telamtherina opudi*, *Telamtherina sarasinorum*, *Tominanga aurea*, *Tominanga sanguicauda*, *Paratherina cyanea*, *Paratherina labosa*, *Paratherina striata*, *Oryzias hadiatyae*, *Oryzias profundicola*, *Oryzias marmoratus*, *Nomorhamphus kolonodalensis*, *Nomorhamphus magarrhamphus*, *Nomorhamphus towoetii*, *Nomorhamphus weberi*. The results of barcoding DNA analysis of the Telamatherinidae family found several endemic fish in Lake Towuti, including: *Parathrina striata*, *Paratherina wolterecki*, *Paratherina cyanea*, *Telamtherian celebensis*, *Telamtherina bonti*, *Telamtherina opudi*, and the genus *Tominanga-Tominanga sanguicauda* [23], 2019). Lake Towuti is an Important habitat for endemic fish species in Indonesia [3,4,8,10]

The spatial and temporal distribution of fish is limited by various factors such as behavior in habitat selection, physiological needs, and interactions with the environment [24]. Fish distributed from different habitats because of their ability to forage for food and spawning grounds [25]. The pH, total phosphorus, total organic matter, aquatic vegetation and suspended solid with sediment play important role for distribution and existence of fish fauna in Lake Towuti [26].

Introduced fish species were found in Towuti Lake such as *Oreochromis mossambicus*, *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Chana striata*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Clarias batrachus*, *Osteochilus hasselti*, *Osphronemus gouramy* and *Trichogaster trichopterus* [10]. Furthermore, According to [27] introduced fish species were found in Lake Towuti namely *Chana striata*, *Oreochromis mossambicus*, *Anabas testudineus*, *Trichopodus pectoralis* and *Trichopodus trichopterus*. In addition, endemic crustaceans were found in the Malili Lake Complex, such as: *Caridina dennerly*; *Caridina woltereckae*; *Caridina masapi*; *Caridina holthuisi*. Malili Lake were found endemic crabs such as *Parathelphusa pantherina*, *Parathelphusa ferruginea*, *Syntripsa flavichela* dan *Nautilotelphusa zimmeri*. In addition, there are 28 species of *Tylomelania* of gastropods were endemic in the Malili Lake Complex, including *Tylomelania patriarchalis*, *Tylomelania gemmifera* and *Tylomelania toradjarum* [28].

### 3.2. Percentage of Endemic Fish

Percentage of endemic fish caught at each station in Lake Towuti in Figure. 3a, b, c, d, e.

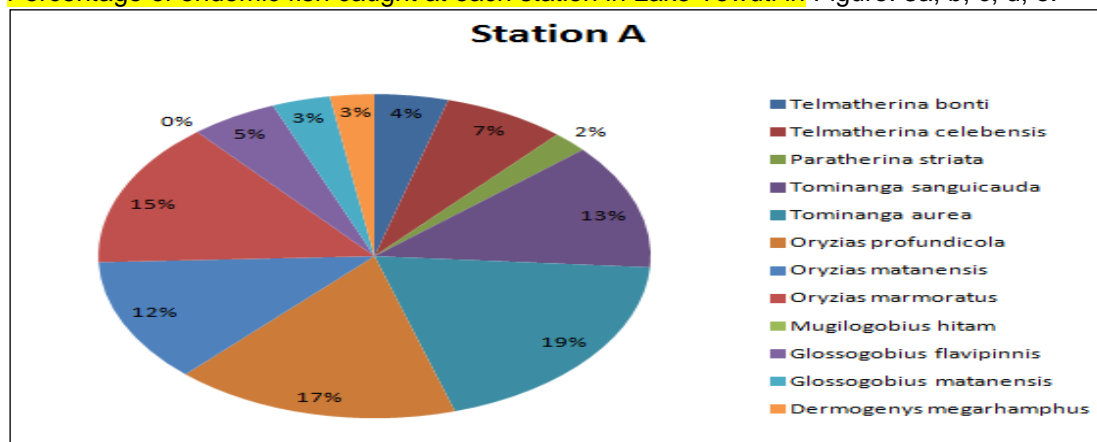
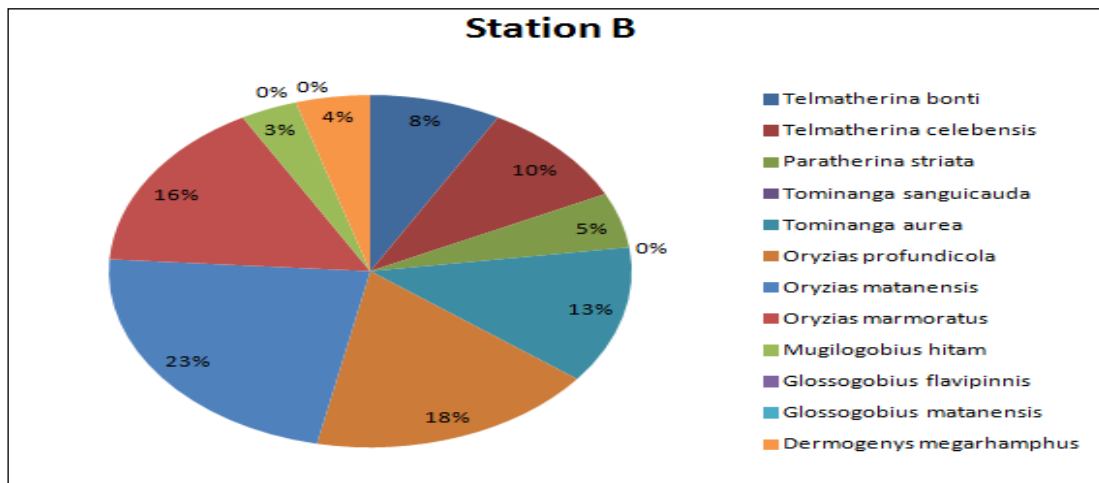


Fig. 3a. Percentage of endemic fish caught at A station in Lake Towuti

132 Station A, the most endemic fish as follows: *Tominanga aurea*> *Oryzias profundicola*>  
 133 *Oryzias marmoratus*> *Tominanga sanguicauda*> *Oryzias matanensis*> *Telmatherina*  
 134 *celebensis*> *Glossogobius flavipinnis*> *Telmatherina bonti*> *Glossogobius matanensis*>  
 135 *Dermatherina striogenys megarhampobius* hitam.  
 136

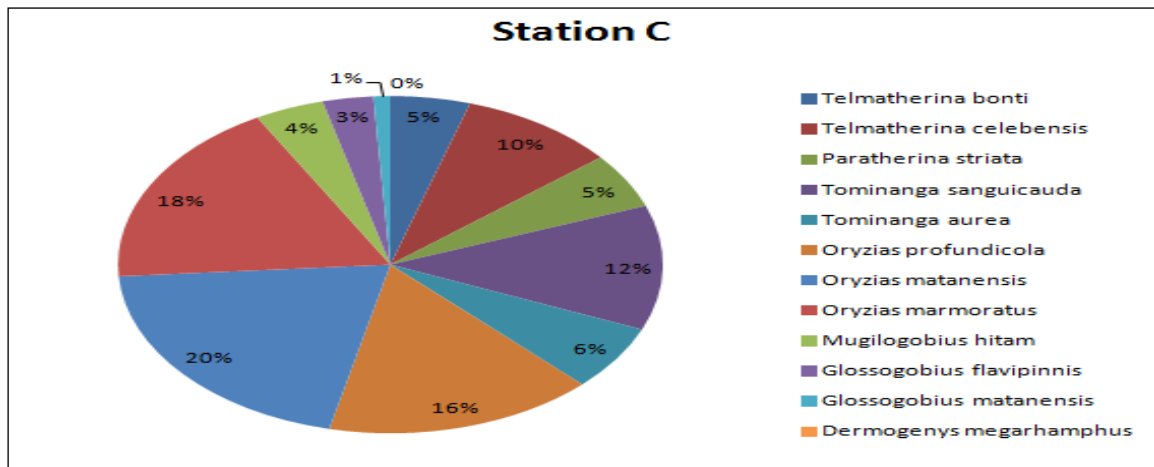


137

138 **Fig. 3b. Percentage of endemic fish caught at B station in Lake Towuti**

139

140 Station B, the most endemic fish as follows: *Oryzias matanensis*> *Tominanga sanguicauda*>  
 141 *Oryzias profundicola*> *Oryzias marmoratus*> *Tominanga aurea*> *Telmatherina celebensis*>  
 142 *Telmatherina bonti*> *Paratherina striata*> *Dermogenys megarhamphus*> *Mugilogobius hitam*  
 143

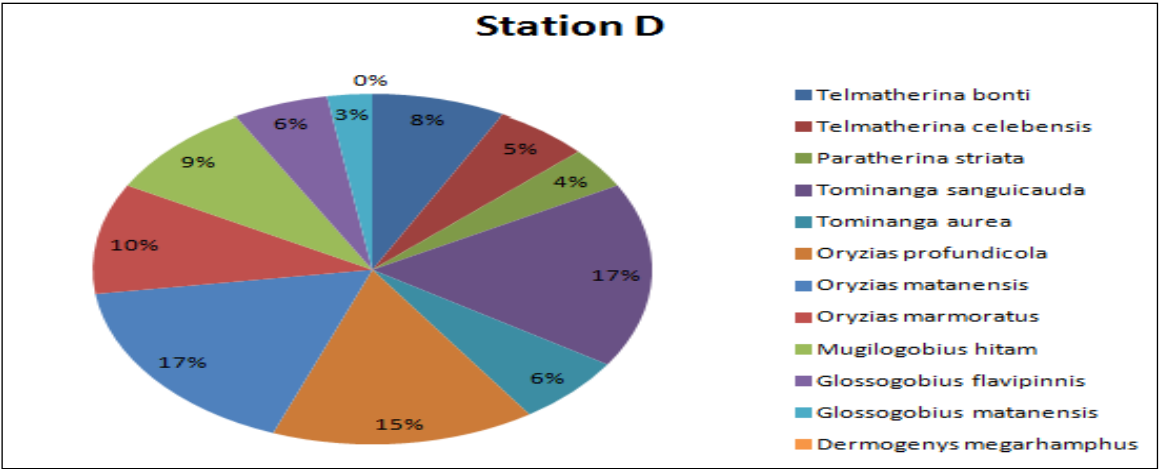


144

145 **Fig. 3c. Percentage of endemic fish caught at C station in Lake Towuti**

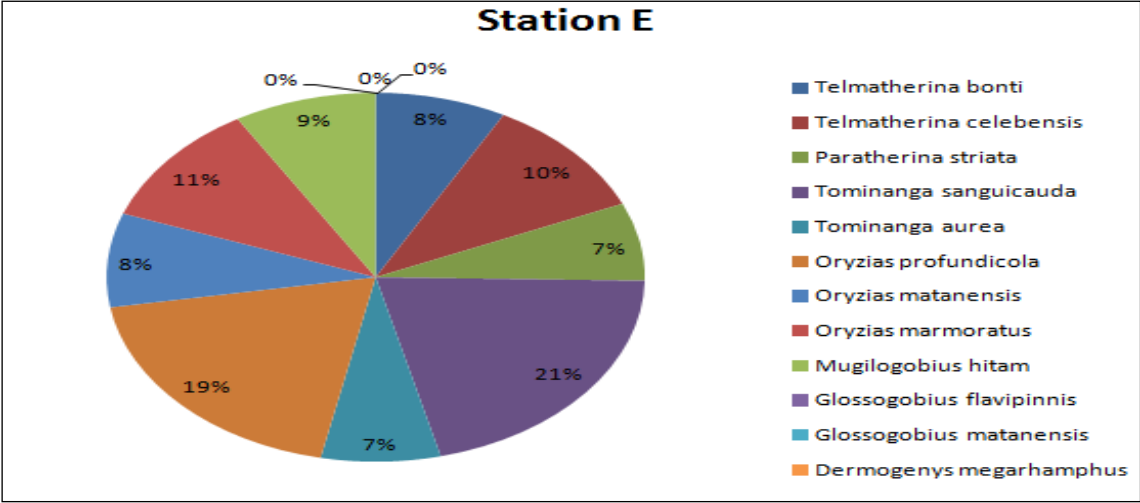
146

147 Station C (Fig.3c), the most endemic fish as follows: *Oryzias matanensis*> *Oryzias*  
 148 *marmoratus*> *Oryzias profundicola*> *Tominanga sanguicauda*> *Telmatherina celebensis*>  
 149 *Tominanga aurea*> *Paratherina striata*> *Telmatherina bonti*> *Mugilogobius hitam*>  
 150 *Glossogobius flavipinnis*> *Glossogobius matanensis*  
 151



**Fig.3d. Percentage of endemic fish caught at D station in Lake Towuti**

Station D (Fig.3d), the most endemic fish as follows: *Tominanga sanguicauda* > *Oryzias matanensis* > *Oryzias profundicola* > *Oryzias marmoratus* > *Mugilogobius hitam* > *Tominanga aurea* > *Telmatherina bonti* > *Telmatherina celebensis* = *Glossogobius flavipinnis* > *Glossogobius matanensis*.



**Fig. 3e. Percentage of endemic fish caught at E station in Lake Towuti**

Station E (Fig.3e), the most endemic fish as follows: *Tominanga sanguicauda* > *Oryzias profundicola* > *Oryzias marmoratus* > *Telmatherina celebensis* > *Mugilogobius hitam* > *Oryzias matanensis* > *Telmatherina bonti* > *Tominanga aurea* > *Paratherina striata*

### 3.2. Water Quality

The results of water quality measurements at each research station were shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Water quality at each research station**



No	Parameter	Stasion A	Stasion B	Stasion C	Stasion D	Stasion E
1	Temperature (°C)	26.40-30.10	27.40-29.50	28.40-30.25	27.50-30.30	28.40-30.10
2	pH (unit)	6.35-7.87	6.67-8.78	7.37-8.27	6.82-9.03	7.35-8.58
3	DO (mg/L)	6.57-8.85	6.25-8.90	6.60-8.85	6.58-8.58	6.57-8.95
4	NO <sub>3</sub> -N (mg/L)	0.023- 0.056	0036-0.060	0.044-0.065	0.019-0.034	0.043- 0.066

171

172 The results of temperature measurement during the study ranged from 26.40 to 30.30°C  
 173 (Table 1). The optimum temperature for fish growth in general is around 25-30°C [29] .  
 174 Temperature is one of the determinants of fish distribution, fish behavior in selecting  
 175 habitats, and determinants of dissolved oxygen [30,31].

176 The content of dissolved oxygen parameters during the study ranged from 6.25 to 8.95 mg/l  
 177 (Table 1).. The content of dissolved oxygen levels in fluidized waters daily and seasonally  
 178 depends on the mixing and movement of water masses, photosynthesis, respiration and  
 179 waste that enters the water [32]. Dissolved oxygen is one of the water parameters that  
 180 determines the quality of a water,

181 The results of pH measurements during the research at Lake Towuti ranged from 6.35 to  
 182 9.03 (Table 1). The degree of acidity or alkalinity (pH) was considered an ecological factor  
 183 that limits the activity and distribution of aquatic organisms, because changes in pH was  
 184 associated with changes in other physico-chemical factors [33]. The ideal water pH for fish  
 185 life ranges from 6.5 to 7.5. Water pH less than 6 or more than 8.5 needs to be watched out  
 186 because there may be contamination of pollution [32] .

187 In Lake Towuti, NO<sub>3</sub> levels were found to ranged from 0.0019 to 0.066 mg/l (Table 1). In  
 188 water, the form of nitrogen can be in the form of inorganic and organic nitrogen. Inorganic  
 189 nitrogen consists of ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>), nitrite (NO<sub>2</sub>), nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) and  
 190 nitrogen molecules (N<sub>2</sub>) in the gaseous form [32]. Excessive levels of nitrogen compounds  
 191 in waters can cause pollution problems. Based on the research results, it shows that the  
 192 water quality of Lake Towuti is suitable for endemic fish.

#### 193 4. CONCLUSION

194

195 Endemic collected fish were belonging to four families namely: Telmatheridae,  
 196 Adrianichthyidae, Gobiidae and Hemiramphidae and a total of twelve endemic species were  
 197 recorded in this study. The number of endemic fish was found to be different at the station.  
 198 Water quality parameters play an important role in the distribution and existence of endemic  
 199 fish in Lake Towuti.

200

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 203 Towuti and helping to catch fish samples

#### 204 COMPETING INTERESTS

205 There is no conflict of interest among all the authors.

#### 206 AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS

207 This work was carried out in collaboration between all authors. All author designed the study.  
 208 Author J,N and AM sourced for the samples while authors MNN and AT managed the

analyses. Authors J,H and E wrote the first draft of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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