

NOTES ON HAMPALA (CYPRININAE) DISTRIBUTION FROM SIX LOCALITIES IN SABAH

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ABSTRACT – This study was conducted from the 9th until 16th November 2003. A total of 31 fish from six localities throughout Sabah were sampled. It was found that at least four forms of Hampala inhabit the Sabah river system. The widely spread form, *H. macrolepidota* and the Bornean endemic form, *H. bimaculata* was recorded on the west coast region of Sabah. The Sabah endemic form, *H. sabana* dominated the central eastern region of Sabah. The south eastern region demonstrates the existence of two forms distinctly different by their number of gill rakers: (1) Tawau population (gill raker counts: 10-11) and Kalabakan population (gill raker counts: 12-13). The Kalabakan form could possibly be a cryptic species.

Keywords – Hampala, distribution, morphological counts, Sabah.

ABSTRAK – Kajian ini telah dijalankan dari 9-16hb November 2003. Sejumlah 31 individu ikan dari enam lokasi di seluruh Sabah telah disampelkan. Didapati sekurang-kurangnya empat jenis Hampala mendiami sungai-sungai di Sabah. Didapati, *H. macrolepidota* yang merupakan jenis yang paling banyak tersebar, dan juga *H. bimaculata* mendiami kawasan barat Sabah. *H. sabana* yang merupakan spesies endemik di Sabah pula mendominasi kawasan tengah dan timur Sabah. Kawasan tenggara Sabah pula terdiri daripada dua jenis Hampala yang berbeza berdasarkan bilangan 'gill rakers'nya: (1) populasi Tawau (bilangan 'gill rakers': 10-11) dan (2) populasi Kalabakan (bilangan 'gill rakers': 12-13). Jenis yang mendiami kawasan Kalabakan pula disyaki spesies yang kriptik.

Kata kunci –Hampala, taburan, kiraan morfologi, Sabah.