

Part 2: New rainbowfishes from the upper Taritatu

In 2015 I had the opportunity to make two fishing trips, one to West Papua and another to Australia. Both trips were very successful and now there will be a flood of new rainbowfishes available for the hobby. In all cases only small quantities of fish were imported as breeding stock. Several of them have been distributed to some other breeders. A selection of Australian species was presented in the last issue.

Most of the following species occur in the Keerom Regency close to the border to Papua New Guinea (see arrow in map)

which is the upper catchment of the river Taritatu, a tributary of the Mamberamo.

Chilatherina spec. “Kali Unggalum”

New species of *Chilatherina* are rarely arriving in the hobby so I was really happy to find this new one. You should think that all *Chilatherina* species in the Mamberamo look the same (like the lowland forms “Pagai” and “Faowi”), but it turned out that *Chilatherina* from this part of the Keerom are blue! Posing males turn dark, the dorsal part of the body and the fins

▶
Chilatherina spec.
“Kali Awalim”
(all photos:
Johannes Graf)



▶
Chilatherina spec.
“Kali Unggalum”



shine in metallic blue. They are easy to keep, no special requests and beautiful.

Chilatherina spec. “Kali Awalim”

This is a sister form of “Unggalum”, in difference the blue is lighter and the breeding stripe is more intense, nearly yellow. The collecting places are only a few kilometres apart, the Kali Awalim runs through the village of Yuruf. Same beauty as the aforementioned *Chilatherina* species, same easy keeping.

Melanotaenia spec. “Kali Rum”

One kilometre walk through dense jungle and climbing over steep limestone cliffs



was necessary to collect this relative of *M. van-heurni*. It shows a blue dorsal part, slender body and red-white fins. It becomes relatively large, the largest fish were about 12 cm long at the collection place. Kali Rum is a small creek but with high banks that show that sometimes a lot of water rushes down.

Melanotaenia spec. “Kali Web pink fin”

So far we do not know how to address this fish. Without doubt it is an undescribed species, from a creek called Kali Web (Indonesian “Kali” means Creek) in the Keerom region not far from the village of



◀ Melanotaenia spec. “Kali Rum”



◀ Melanotaenia spec. “Kali Web pink fin”

▶
Melanotaenia spec.
"Kali Web vanheurni
type"



▶
Melanotaenia spec.
"Kali Semen"



▶
Wild caught adult
Melanotaenia spec.
"Kali Puar" photo-
graphed at the type
locality.



Ubrub but crossing one more mountain in direction to the Dividing Range. The road ends in Ubrub, a gravel track leads farther in to the Kali Web.

Among the relatives of *Melanotaenia vanheurni* there were some different fishes in our catch that were clearly "something different". DNA analysis is ongoing; it will

be interesting to know the closest relatives. This rainbowfish gets huge, it has a long caudal peduncle and prominent dorsal and anal fins. According to the light the colours are shining in all pastels. The young males are now turning more and more red and it is obvious that this is a really outstanding species.

Melanotaenia spec. “Kali Web vanheurni type”

From the aforementioned Kali Web this is a relative of *M. vanheurni*. In difference to the closely related fish from “Kali Rum” and “Kali Semen” this one has the second dorsal fin in red with a black margin. This fish looks a bit like the well-known *M. trifasciata* “Goyder River” from Australia, but the body is more slender.

Melanotaenia spec. “Kali Semen”

The difference to the closely related fishes from “Kali Rum“ and “Kali Web“ is that this fish turns white when posing, which enhances the dark markings even more. In normal colour the dorsal part is blue, the fins are white with a darker margin. Most

likely this fish gets large too, but so far the specimens are smaller than the aforementioned species.

Melanotaenia spec. “Kali Puar”

So far no *Melanotaenia* species has been found in the Tami River system. This has changed now. In Kali Puar, located in the middle section of the Tami River, we found this *Melanotaenia* species which is maybe related to *Melanotaenia lorentzi*, but for sure is an undescribed species. Eye-catching are the flag-like dorsal and anal fins of adult males. At the collecting place we could take pictures of adult specimens, but only juveniles have been imported. So it will take some time before aquarium pictures can be shown.



▲ Satellite picture of the Keerom Regency close to the border to Papua New Guinea (yellow line). The collection places of the new rainbowfish species in those upper reaches of the river Tariatatu are only a few kilometres apart. The collection place of *Melanotaenia spec. “Kali Puar”* lies approximately 50 km north, in the Tami River system. (Map: Google earth)

This paper has been published in:



Regenbogenfisch
Jahrgang 21 Heft 2/2016

INHALT

- 48 Editorial
- 49 Expedition:
Die Entdeckung von *M. bowmani* und *M. grunwaldi*
Johannes Graf
- 60 Expedition:
Entlang der Cenderawasih-Bucht
Ulmer Georg Ehm
- 65 Vorstellung:
Der Lake-Tacham-Regenbogenfisch
Henry Wolf
- 68 Lebensraum:
Vögel und Fische im „Ökosystem Palmölplantage“
Janvier Sibson, Nadine Wirthschke & Michael Wagner
- 76 Importiert:
Neue Regenbogenfische vom Taritatu
Johannes Graf
- 80 Unter Wasser:
Videodokumentation in australischen Süßwasser-
biotopen
Oliver Göttschke & Greg Welle
- 82 Impressum

 PDF-File in English available for download on www.irg-online.de/info

Tierbild:
Typenfondren von *Afghanostoma grunwaldi* im Tintopgebiet des Tupo-see
einer Brücke südlich von Nabire. Betrieben zu Ehren unseres 2000-ten
IRG-Mitglieds, Regionalgruppenleiters und Redaktionsleiters Norbert
Grunwald. Foto: Gary Lange

The publication is under copyright. You may download the PDF for private purposes, print out personal copies and link to www.irg-online.de/rfe in print or communication. For other use please contact info@irg-online.de.

Regenbogenfisch is the quarterly journal of the IRG, published in German and Dutch and included in the membership fee. Some of the content is additionally provided in English as PDF files.

IRG - Internationale Gesellschaft für Regenbogenfische e.V. (International Rainbowfish Association), founded in 1986, is a community of fishkeepers with special interest in rainbowfishes, blue-eyes, and other freshwater species from Australia, New Guinea and the close-by islands. Most of our 500+ members live in Europe. 100+ species and varieties are kept and homebred in our aquaria. In regional meetings fish and information are exchanged. Our transnational, annual convention brings together many members and sees presentations of experts and the world's largest rainbowfish sale. The date is fixed each year to the second weekend of June.

Do you want to know more?
Just browse to www.irg-online.de.

