

Pogoneleotris heterolepis
(Teleostei: Eleotridae),
a rare fish from Borneo: biological data and remarks
on the type locality and type material

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The Italian Marquis Giacomo Doria had accompanied the botanist Odoardo Beccari on his travels in Borneo in 1865 (Pichi Sermolli & Van Steenis, 1983). During their stay in Sarawak, Doria and Beccari had amassed many specimens, amongst which were some most unusual fishes. Doria had then sent the fish specimens to Albert Günther at the British Museum in London and one of the results was the description of *Pogoneleotris heterolepis* (Günther, 1869).

Even today, nearly 150 years after its discovery, *Pogoneleotris heterolepis* is still relatively unknown; being rarely cited in literature or encountered in regional collections. This may be a reflection of its rarity in nature or the scarcity of collections due to its niche habitat.

From recent works conducted in Sarawak since 1990s, the diversity of fishes of this part of East Malaysia has become better known (e.g. Kottelat & Lim, 1995; Doi et al., 2001; Parenti & Lim, 2005; Tan, 2006; Tan & Lim, 2007). However, large rivers are still poorly surveyed due to several reasons, viz. inaccessibility, insufficient logistic support and presence of hazardous elements (predominantly the presence of man-eating estuarine crocodiles). Thus, the fish fauna of large rivers is

still inadequately surveyed and our understanding of their diversity is still poor. The goby species *Pogoneleotris heterolepis* is such an example.

Herein, we report on 15 recent specimens of this unusual looking eleotrid goby obtained from markets and local fishers spanning 1982 to present, with additional biological data, as well as a brief diagnosis and remarks on the type locality and type material. A more in-depth morphological and taxonomic study of *Pogoneleotris heterolepis* is currently underway (H. Larson, pers. comm.).

***Pogoneleotris* Bleeker, 1875**

Pogoneleotris Bleeker, 1875: 107 (type species: *Eleotris heterolepis* Günther, 1869 by original designation and monotypy).

***Pogoneleotris heterolepis* (Günther, 1869)**
(Figs. 1–3)

Eleotris heterolepis Günther, 1869: 445 (type locality: Sarawak. Holotype: BMNH 1868.6.9.16).

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