

**Some Biological Aspects of Pearl Gourami, *Trichogaster leerii* (Bleeker, 1852)  
in Toh Daeng Peatswamp, Narathiwat Province**

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**Abstract**

Some biological aspects of Pearl Gourami, *Trichogaster leerii* (Bleeker, 1852) in Toh Daeng peatswamp of Narathiwat Province were investigated and aimed to identify the general characteristics, taxonomy, living habitats and other characteristics. Fish samples were monthly collected from local fishermen during November 2004 to October 2005.

A total of 199 fishes were 99 males and 100 females. The total length and weight were  $8.44 \pm 0.67$  cm and  $6.80 \pm 1.47$  gm, respectively. A laterally compressed fish with long-oval shaped body similar to tree-spot gourami were found, but its body was deeper than those of tree-spot gourami, large eyes, and interior mouth. Body and head color was silvery gray and. The dominant of this species is a distinct black lace running from the head and gradually thinning toward the caudal peduncle, pearl spots on body and filamentous fin rays on dorsal and anal fins, a dark spot on caudal-peduncle. Standard length was 3.20-3.27 times of body depth. Generally found in slow flow streams, swamp or nearly still water bodies. There were three cohorts in population structure. The length-weight relationship equation was  $W = 0.0268 L^{2.5880}$ , ( $R^2 = 0.8941$ ,  $n = 99$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Dorsal fins of male longer and anal fin was more colorful than those of female. Female was ovate body small dorsal and posterior dorsal rounded. There was no statistical difference of annual or monthly sex ratio ( $p > 0.05$ ). The fish was able to breed all year round. Egg was rounding, yellowish and pelagic. Pearl Gourami is a bubble nest builder. Fecundity was  $893 \pm 491$  and was closer related to weight ( $R^2 = 0.6221$ ) than to length ( $R^2 = 0.4587$ ).

**Key words:** Belontiidae, ecology, wetland, tropical freshwater fish.

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