

(h) *Hypsibarbus* spp.

Rainboth (1996) included six species of the genus *Hypsibarbus* in his book, *Fishes of the Cambodian Mekong*, and further indicated that seven species might occur within the Mekong River. Since species within this genus are difficult to separate just by looking at photographs, they are covered here as a single group. Local names reflect the similarities between the species, i.e., the same local name is often used for all species within the genus (e.g., in Cambodia it is *trey Chhpin*). In fact, in Cambodia, *Barbodes gonionotus* is also called *trey Chhpin*, indicating that there would even be some confusion in information between the two genera, *Hypsibarbus* and *Barbodes*. Similar problems probably occur in the Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam. This obviously limits the species-specific conclusions that can be drawn for *Hypsibarbus* species. Therefore, only some general trends are discussed here for this group of fish.

Below the Khone Falls, fishermen reported that this species group undertook short local migrations, including lateral migrations. The migrations were reportedly triggered by rising and receding water levels, respectively. At three stations, migration from flooded areas and back to the main river was reported to occur just before the full moon.

Above the Khone Falls, in the Lao PDR and Thailand, there was contradictory information regarding migratory patterns, i.e., both upstream and downstream movements were reported during the onset of the monsoon season. Such movements probably reflect different species within the group.

Two fishermen from Chiang Khong and Loei, respectively, reported spawning behaviour in May. They both observed fish gathering in large groups in shallow waters near a sandy beach in the Mekong mainstream. April to June is the peak period for observing eggs in the fish, which further indicates a spawning period within that period.

The spawning behaviour of *Hypsibarbus malcolmi* was previously studied at the Khone Falls (Baird and Phylavanh, 1999c). This species vocalises during its spawning season in November and December; based on these vocalisations, three spawning grounds were identified just below the Khone Falls, near the border between Cambodia and the Lao PDR (Baird and Phylavanh, 1999c).

*Hypsibarbus malcolmi* is thus one of the few species to have a distinct spawning season in the early dry season.