

PINSTRIPED DAMBA

Paretroplus menarambo

Smith & Radcliffe, 1911



PIERRE DE CHABANNES

CLASSIFICATION

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Perciformes

Family: Cichlidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

UNCOMMON



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Identification: Maximum length is 12.8 cm. Oval-shaped, laterally compressed body. Beige-grey coloration with rows of dark dots forming vertical bars on flanks. Fins bluish with red edges.

Range: Endemic to Madagascar, previously only found in Lake Sarodrano but now extinct there. A remnant population occurs in Lake Tseny.

Habitat: Lives in lakes and floodplains. Perhaps also occurred in slow flowing rivers.

Behavior: The species lives in groups. Feeds mostly on small mollusks, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Lays eggs usually on steep rocks.

Status in the wild: The species was thought to be extinct in the wild until a remnant population was discovered in a single lake. Vulnerable to habitat degradation.

In captivity: This species is targeted by a breeding program in American and European zoos and aquariums. It also occurs in private collections and is sometimes sold in aquarium fish markets. Often bred.