

TINFOIL BARB

Barbonymus schwanenfeldii

Bleeker, 1854



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Cyprinidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

COMMON



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: The species grows to 35 cm in length. Old adults have a deep body with back hump. Large silvery flank scales with yellow tinge. Small head with yellow chin, red eyes. Dorsal fin black. Rest of fins red with broad black margin on tail fin.

Range: The species is found in South East Asia, from the Mekong and Chao Phraya basins in Indochina and Thailand to Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo.

Habitat : Medium to large rivers, streams, canals and flooded fields.

Behavior: Migratory species, going to flooded fields during high water. Usually found in big schools. Feeds mostly on plants and algae, also takes insects and small fishes.

Status in the wild: The species is widespread and still very common despite being caught by fisheries. Locally, dam construction and pollution can be threats.

In captivity: This species is by far the commonest of its genus in captivity around the world, being found in many public collections and bred by fish farms in huge numbers. It isn't bred in public aquariums apparently. Currently kept in 37 European collections.