



Census 2021 Spring Parosphromenus-Project: Comments

This document describes the relevant aspects of the outcome of the spring census 2021.

It aims to highlight developments on a short-term basis and to supplement the reader of the general synopsis with an overview on the most important changes with respect to the spring census.

Assembled by Rafael Egli (Basel, Switzerland)

Period of data collection: 01.04.2021 – 16.05.2021

Participation (including negative reports): 51 ↑

The participation has risen by over 25% compared to the fall census of 2020, and about 50% from spring 2020. We hope to see a continuation of this trend as a large and active community of keepers of parosphromenus is of central importance to the project. Starting the Core Conservation Programme (CCP, see [website](#) for further information) replacing the old godfather system is an important step towards more population-security for species of special interest. It is our aim to increase engagement with members from around the world through various media, including our facebook [page](#). We believe that increased participation in the census is in part thanks to these efforts, which we will try to keep up.

Notably, the number of institutions involved in the census has increased as we received reports from four new zoos and similar institutions from Indonesia, Germany, Poland and Singapore as well as the previously established Chester Zoo. We are pleased to announce that about 50% of the species listed in the census are kept also by zoos or conservation centers. It has been a long-standing goal of the Parosphromenus Project to establish sustainable and hopefully long-lasting collaborations with institutional keepers and breeders of Parosphromenus species. We hope to extend and deepen these connections in the future.

Pictograms used to assess the short-term trends:

↑: positive changes compared to past census

→: stable population and number of keepers

↓: negative developments, decreasing numbers of keepers and population

@: kept at institution/zoo

!: special situation/development

!! **HIGH RISK**: Species with high risk of getting lost in the near term

IUCN: (related comments in blue) Species listed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) as endangered. Special efforts are taken in cooperation with Chester Zoo to establish insurance populations with the most skilled breeders from our network.

P. alfredi → **IUCN**

Stable populations with several experienced breeders are promising.

The species is part of the Parosphromenus Project cooperation with Chester Zoo/IUCN to maintain insurance populations.

P. allani ↓!! **HIGH RISK**

Further loss of population size and breeders bring this species to the **brink of extinction** in the project. The unfortunate trend of the past year has continued and the future is far from certain.

P. anjunganensis ↑

Large and geographically diverse breeder base with **successful breeding** makes *P. anjunganensis* a relatively secure species. The good results are promising and should encourage further distribution.

P. barbarae →!! **HIGH RISK**

Breeding success by Seifert should allow further distribution. However, **still very limited numbers** require awareness and concerted efforts at securing this species.

P. bintan ↑ @

Very **strong numbers** reported by many breeders. While identification might often remain difficult, we emphasise the broad breeder base and often large individual populations as a **great basis for providing new keepers with relatively uncritical fish**. Population reported at **Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark** (institutional partner in Banka) and **Mandai Nature/Wildlife Reserves** (Singapore)

P. deissneri ↑ @

This historically important species has been reported by **two new keepers**. Hopefully, stable populations can be established in the future. **Breeding appears to have been possible** which should be seen as a promising sign. Population reported at **Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark**.

Serious efforts are being made that this species becomes listed at the IUCN RED LIST, and until this is achieved, efforts will be made to establish 'insurance populations' for this species as well, therefore this will hopefully very soon also be listed as an IUCN PROTECTED SPECIES.

P. filamentosus → @

Relatively stable, yet **small breeder base**. Large populations reported by Beu & Zuber with **continuous breeding successes** should encourage distribution to new keepers. One male reported from **Chester Zoo** (UK).

P. gunawani → @

Breeding was successful with some of the newly imported groups mentioned last fall. While identification remains an issue, the current situation appears to be **rather stable**. Population reported from **Zoo Wroclaw** (Poland)

P. harveyi ↑

Thankfully, reports missed in fall 2020 were provided again, approximately **restoring the picture from spring 2020**. Given the well-known locations of several variants, establishing sustainable populations of these variants appears possible and a valid goal. Offspring was reported by Hönsch and Reinecke, which might help in achieving this endeavour.

P. linkei ↑ @

Large growth in the keeper base was recorded for both the generically classified “commercial import” variants as well as the *cf. linkei* “Palankaraya”. **Numerous reports of large offspring counts** are further underlining the **strength and health of the populations** kept within the project. Furthermore, the population reported from **Chester Zoo** is growing.

P. nagyi ↑

Growth was mainly observed in the “*commercial import*” as well as “*Sedili*” and “*Kuantan*” varieties. These, alongside “*Cherating*” may be assumed relatively safe thanks to breeding successes and a rather broad keeper base. **Additional distribution efforts** could further strengthen the populations of known origin.

P. opallios ↑ @

Strong breeding efforts provide relatively good **short-term security and potential for further distribution**. The breeder base is, while not huge, large enough to likely proof sustainable. Breeding was successful also at **Chester Zoo**.

P. ornaticauda → @

Stable populations and keeper counts are observed. Hopefully, breeding will succeed, allowing further continuation of the current populations. First report from the **Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark**.

P. pahuensis ↓ !! **HIGH RISK**

Uncertain future since only one breeder is left. Problematically low population count leaves *P.pahuensis* the **most acutely endangered** species within the project. Major emphasis should be put on **establishing a larger breeding group** before increasing distribution efforts.

P. paludicola ↑ @

Increasing numbers provide some degree of security for this much cherished species. Recent imports appear to contribute to this. **Some breeding successes** are promising as well as the **large stock kept at Chester Zoo**.

P. parvulus →

Stable populations of intermediate size as well as approximately constant number of breeders.

P. phoenicurus → @

Stabilization of both keepers and individuals with some breeding successes. Only two males reported from **Chester Zoo**. Better balancing the distribution of sexes amongst breeders by **exchanging/redistribution individuals** might be a way forward.

P. quindecim ↑!! **HIGH RISK.** @

Only reported by two breeders. However, **offspring is present in both cases**, which might hopefully be foundational to new populations amongst more numerous members. Report from **Tierpark Berlin** (Germany).

P. rubrimontis →!! **HIGH RISK.**

Again, only reported by Hallmann with some potential for redistribution. **Action is required** to improve the state of this species!

Serious efforts are being made that this species becomes listed at the IUCN RED LIST, and until this is achieved, efforts will be made to establish 'insurance populations' for this species as well, therefore this will hopefully very soon also be listed as an IUCN PROTECTED SPECIES.

P. sumatranus ↑

Growing but still small number of keepers thanks to novel imports. Hopefully, the current populations will produce offspring to **promote stabilization**.

P. tweediei → **IUCN**

Relatively stable, small to medium sized group of breeders. Successful breeding by Beyer and Seifert might pave the way towards population extension and distribution.

The species is part of the Parosphromenus Project cooperation with Chester Zoo/IUCN to maintain 'insurance populations', and is currently being held by few breeders only, who will maintain and seek to increase number. It will not be distributed unless a certain size of population within the insurance populations has been reached.

Other species ↑ @

The varieties "*sp. Endau Rompin*" and "*spec. Belitung Barat*" have remained in similar population sizes whereas a strong increase of "*sp. Batu Pahat/Ayer Hitam*" was recorded. Extended distribution and new imports in 2020/2021 seem to be at the origin of this development. Newly reported "*sp. Jambi*" by Menner from the **Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark**.