



Census 2020 Fall Parosphromenus-Project: Comments

This document describes the relevant aspects of the outcome of the Fall census 2020.

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 (Allschwil, Switzerland)

Period of data collection: 01.10.2020 – 16.11.2020

Participation (including negative reports): 39 ↑

The participation has risen slightly with only 4 negative reports. The tragic and surprising death of Bernd Bussler, one of the most accomplished and experienced breeders in our network has resulted in an overall reduction of population sizes in several species. We observe an interesting situation where several members in different countries start to establish larger sets of species they keep and breed. Apparently, more import activity of local fish stores as well as a rising interest in Parosphromenus species benefit this positive development after some years of stagnating and declining numbers. The facebook page has become an integral part of the project and serves as a hub for information and experience exchange, potentially benefiting the outreach and accessibility of the project. Importantly, we received census data from Chester Zoo again.

Pictograms used to assess the short-term trend:

↑: positive changes compared to past census

→: stable population and number of keepers

↓: negative developments, decreasing numbers of keepers and population

@: kept at institution/zoo (No data available in this Census period)

!: 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 to slightly rising numbers. Breeding is successful in several cases, **promising future distribution** and mid- to long-term stability.

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 numbers. It will not be distributed unless a certain size of population within the insurance populations has been reached. IUCN-godfathers: Hallmann, Perrin, Schoubye and Wilden(?)

P. allani ↓!! **HIGH RISK**

The **small population size** and number of keepers has **decreased further**. Breeding efforts are required to stabilize the two variants currently present in the project. Losing this species appears to be a real risk at this point.

P. anjunganensis →

A constantly good level of keepers with reasonable population sizes and reproducing individuals is promising for the future of this species.

P. barbarae →!!! **HIGH RISK**

After its **scientific description** this year, the previous *P. allani* "Lundu" is now *P. barbarae*. With only two keepers, this species is in danger but successful breeding efforts by Seifert are promising.

P. bintan →

The **large base of keepers** is very positive with **several reported breeding events**. This species has for a long time been a **showcase of successful conservation** and remains in great shape. However, there might be a lack of correct identification leading to an overestimation of the real numbers.

P. deissneri →!! **HIGH RISK**

The large number of individuals kept by Hallmann could potentially improve the future situation. However, this **historically important species remains under threat** as it is only present with two keepers. 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. Potential godfather: Schoubye

P. filamentosus ↑

With five keepers of filamentosus or related variants, the **tense condition prevails** although some **breeding was successful**, potentially allowing a broader distribution among more members. This species was not reported any more from Chester Zoo.

P. gunawani ↑!

Strong increase of reports is largely related to a **series of imports** to Sweden, the United Kingdom, Austria and the Netherlands. This seems to be a good base for **establishing a sustained population**. Identification remains a somewhat unclear issue.

P. harveyi ↓ !! HIGH RISK

After a sharp increase in reported populations in spring, the **reports have dropped** again dramatically. Potentially, the fish are still present with keepers who did not participate in the fall census. Nevertheless, the **situation remains challenging**.

P. linkei ↑ @

Stable and even slightly growing **keeper base and population sizes are still very positive**. The variations kept by fewer members of the project are breeding well, assuring the **continued possibility for redistribution and sustained preservation**. Reported again by Chester Zoo.

P. nagy →

Overall **stable numbers** of reported populations and population sizes. Due to the **large number of variations, each is only kept by few breeders**. Redistribution of the well reproducing species would be desirable.

P. opallios → @

The individuals formerly kept by Bussler were redistributed which hopefully will lead to a stable and rising population among members. Reported again by Chester Zoo.

P. ornata ↑

A **novel import** by Ruinemans has led to an increase of keepers and individuals kept. Additionally, **breeding was successful** and promises a future stabilization of the population.

P. pahuensis →

The population remains **small and concentrated at three keepers**. Here, the loss of Bussler as a breeder might cause future declines in the population. **Breeding by Wegerer is promising**, however.

P. paludicola ↑ @

Rising numbers of keepers and again reported by Chester Zoo. Some offspring could further strengthen the populations.

P. parvulus →

Stabilization of keepers and population sizes at a relatively low level. The difficulty of breeding this species is further challenging the sustainability of these populations.

P. phoenicurus ↑ @

Growing number of reports with fewer changes in the reporting members than last spring. Three keepers report offspring. The generally **large population size** as well as the presence at Chester Zoo is **indicative of stability**.

P. quindecim ↑ !! HIGH RISK.

Reported again by Beu with offspring. Potential for **redistribution** should be evaluated as this used to be a very stable species.

P. rubrimontis → !! HIGH RISK.

Only reported by Hallmann, **disappearance of this species would be a major setback** because of its potential to become listed by IUCN. Might still be present at some keepers. **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* ↓ !! HIGH RISK**

Immediate threat of disappearance due to the lack of male individuals in stocks of members. The partial loss of Busslers population might be detrimental.

***P. tweediei* ↑ IUCN**

Further improvements regarding the number of keepers. Breeding should be a focus as this is one of the IUCN species. New reports of variant “*Sri Bunjan*” by Hallmann.

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. IUCN-godfather: Perrin

Other species →

No more reports of “*Sp. Sentang*”. The situation of “*sp. Batu Phahat/Ayer Hitam*”, “*Endau Rompin*” and “*Beleitung Barat*» remains similar to last spring. Novel report of “*sp. Riau*” by Wegerer.

THE STATUS OF THE INSURANCE PROGRAMME – IN COOPERATION WITH CHESTER ZOO/IUCH December 2020

Insurance Population Programme – in cooperation with Chester Zoo and IUCN (Godfather-programme)				
Species	Keeper	Male	Female	Offspring
<i>P. alfredi</i> ‘Sedili’	Perrin	6	6	many
	Hallmann	1	1	30
<i>P. cf. alfredi</i> (ruinemans, 2013)	Schoubye	1	1	60
<i>P. tweediei</i> (commercial trade)	Perrin	3	1	0
<i>P. deissneri</i> (Shi)	Hallmann	3	3	25
	Schoubye	Will receive from Hallmann		
<i>P. rubrimontis</i> ‘NSFR’ (Malaysia, Perak)	Hallmann	1	1	30