

# THE PAROSPHROMENUS PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Annual report 2021



Dear members and supporters of the Parosphromenus Project

We are now approaching spring of 2022, and although the summer of 2021 brought some optimism and hope for once again being able to travel, and be out of the shadow of the recent year of the Corona Pandemic, the end of 2021 again brought for many countries another wave of uncertainty and lockdowns.

Many of our projects and plans have of course been influenced by this situation, however we also experienced many new and good developments. Some things have been starting to move again, and we bring this annual report to you with highlight of these. We bring you here an overview of the activities, news and developments from the last year, and hope you will enjoy reading.

*Best regards from the Parosphromenus Project Team*

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### TWO NEW SPECIES OF PAROSPHROMENUS FROM INDONESIA DESCRIBED

October 28 2021 the article describing two new species from Indonesia was published by our team scientist and field work manager Wentian Shi, together with his team Shujie Guo, Haryono Haryono, Yijang Hong and Wanchang Zhang. The article was published in the journal Zootaxa and can be found here

#### [Diagnoses of two new species of Parosphromenus \(Teleostei: Osphronemidae\) from Bangka Island and Kalimantan, Indonesia](#)

##### *Parosphromenus juelinae*

*P. juelinae* occurs on the island of Bangka, which also is where *P. deissneri* and *P. bintan* occurs, though not in same locations.

Its unpaired fin coloration is similar to that of *P. deissneri*, but it differs from the latter in having a rounded caudal fin with a non-filamentous branched median ray and a smaller anal fin. Although the new species has the same caudal fin structure as *P. bintan*, it can be distinguished from the latter by its distinct unpaired fin coloration and the intense red color on the body flanks.



This species is restricted to a few adjoining forest streams and swamps belonging to the same river system in Bangka, which are not connected with the habitats of *P. bintan* and *P. deissneri*. The habitats are well-preserved and relatively undisturbed by human activities. However, the edge of the distribution area of this species is now under growing pressure from agricultural activities. The swamp of the above-mentioned collection location in 2017 has been drained and converted into a paddy field in 2019; thus, likely extirpating the population.

<https://www.parosphromenus-project.org/en/parosphromenus-julinae>

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## *Parosphromenus kishii*

*Parosphromenus kishii* sp. nov. can be easily distinguished from all other *Parosphromenus* by its unique reddish caudal fin with an irregular faint turquoise pattern and pointed rhombic shape.

*Parosphromenus kishii* sp. nov. is confined to a single river, which now functions as a natural irrigation canal for a large oil-palm plantation. The habitat is extremely impacted. Any further works at the plantation may lead to dredging and expansion of this river, which may eradicate the only known population of this species. Thus, following the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (ver. 3.1), we propose that this species



be listed as Critically Endangered B2ab (iii, v), based on its very restricted distribution within a single river running through an oil-palm plantation (<50 km<sup>2</sup>) with only a single known location and the extremely high likelihood of becoming extinct due to the potential works of surrounding oil-palm plantations. Immediate in-situ or ex-situ conservation is highly recommended for this species.

<https://www.parosphromenus-project.org/en/parosphromenus-kishii> for more information

## *P. barbarae*

Mai 2020

Congratulations to Dr. Tan and Dr. Grinang! We welcome the 21st member of the genus of *Parosphromenus*: *P. barbarae*. The old name is *sp. Lundu*, *sp. SungaiStunggang*, *sp. allani* type 2. But unfortunately the habitats of this species were lost. Wild population cannot be found for many years. It is the common fate of many *Parosphromenus*. Without proper conservation, we might lose all of them! We must do it before too late!.

Read more here :

[https://www.senckenberg.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/07\\_vertrebrate\\_zoology\\_70\\_3\\_2020\\_Tan.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0f0R7tUceW-eME0lsYiX2NRITWIQPH7vUrQUFDxMUdE2XJJ5OBIVEZTzY](https://www.senckenberg.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/07_vertrebrate_zoology_70_3_2020_Tan.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0f0R7tUceW-eME0lsYiX2NRITWIQPH7vUrQUFDxMUdE2XJJ5OBIVEZTzY)

<https://www.parosphromenus-project.org/en/parosphromenus-barbarae>

### Introduction to The Core Conservation Programme (CCP)

In marts, we introduced the new initiative, which we called Core Conservation Programme.

Inspired by our work which we started in connection with Chester Zoo (insurance populations, guided by IUCN red lists) but also urged by the general important need for action, we have decided to add more structure to our ex-situ conservation work for all Parosphromenus species.

It is quite simple, but it is also challenging.

All species of Parosphromenus are at risk due to loss of their natural habitat. There is no doubt about this, but different factors are involved regarding how acute and immediate this threat is regarding our stocks, - habitat area and development, ex-situ stock global, ex-situ stock Europe and likeability/popularity/difficulty of each species. We have therefore divided the species into 3 groups, which has different needs in terms of actions needed here and now regarding conservation within the PP. Species will be monitored for need to change to a different status.

The Core Conservation Programme: We wish to establish stable populations of each species by making personal connections to key breeders, attempting to have a minimum of 2-3 stable populations of each species. We have found that it is not enough to use our 'old godfather' system, - we found that there is a need for an initiative involving personal connections, and contact.

We therefore contacted some people, using our Census as guide, and the programme has since been broadly welcomed by the breeders. We are very grateful and want to thank those of you who already confirmed their contribution. More needs to come, - and we invite anyone to contact us, if they do indeed feel they would like to participate and contribute.

We wish to implement more direct support and connections with and between key breeders in order to help with exchange of fish, off-spring and other issues if necessary.

For some species we will be supported by institutions such as Zoos and Aquariums and hopefully more in the future.

It is important to note that Census will continue completely as before, but this new system will replace the 'old' godfather system, which no longer will be used.

Participation in the CCP program is always possible, but please consider this:

1. Your wish to participate should be for a longer period, and it is good if you already have experience with this kind of long-term keeping of Parosphromenus.

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- All species that you want to introduce to this program will have to be identified correctly and preferably have a known location.

The problematic area of *P. gunawani* and *P. bintan*

The PP. has decided to try to establish 'true' lines of *P. bintan* and *P. gunawani*, when this is possible. *P. bintan* has been obtained with locality, but for now consisting only of a few pairs. This does not mean that we do not see the importance of the very large group of often commercially traded Parosphromenus, which are labeled either as *P. gunawani* or *P. bintan* or *P. sp. bintan* or something within this group. All of these are of course equally important and valuable, but we are not attempting at the moment to include these in the conservation program.



The group is simply too big, and complicated to identify safely. We will keep focus on this group in a general and different way, always seeking to become more knowledgeable about the specifics of these variations.

### CCP Status list oktober 2021

| Species                     | Name of CCP breeder | Males/ females | Comments<br>Cause for concern, actions needed |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Group 1                     |                     |                |   |
| <b>Barbarae</b>             | Seifert             | 1.5.0          |   |
|                             | Henke               | 0.0.5          |   |
|                             |                     |                |   |
| Bintan 'Bintan'             | Schoubye            | 1.2.50         | <b>Need more CCP</b>                          |
|                             | Menner              | 3.2.40         | PCBA  |
| Deissneri 'neotype'         | Schoubye            | 2.2.0          |   |
|                             | Hallmann            | 8.9.0          |   |
|                             | Henke               | 2.2.0          |   |
|                             | Beyer               | 0.0.5          |   |
| Deissneri 'Desa Namang'     | Menner              | 3.1.0          | PCBA  |
| Deissneri 'Desa Kemingking' | Menner              | 5.5.0          | PCBA  |
| Deissneri 'Bangka'          | schoubye            | 2.1.25         |   |
| Filamentosus                | Beu                 | 1.1.15         |   |
|                             | henke               | 1.1.0          |   |
|                             | Marshall            | 2.3            |   |
|                             | Aquazoo düsseldorf  | 2.2.30         |   |

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|                      |             |                |                                  |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Rubrimontis          |             |                | Solution needed                  |
| Gunawani             |             |                | Not confirmed species reported   |
| Tweediei             | Perrin      | No report      |                                  |
|                      | Windfuhr    | 0.2.0          | Looking for males                |
|                      | Seifert     | 2.1.0          |                                  |
|                      | Wegerer     | 1.3.0          |                                  |
|                      |             |                |                                  |
| Alfredi              | Perrin      | 10.10.0        |                                  |
|                      | Hallmann    | 10.10.5        |                                  |
|                      |             |                |                                  |
| Group 2              |             |                |                                  |
| Allani               | Wegerer     | 3.0            | Big cause for concern            |
| Anjunganensis        | Chyla       | 10.5.15        | Doing well overall               |
| Harveyi              | wilden      | 0.0.0          |                                  |
|                      | hallmann    | 0.0.0          |                                  |
| Sumatranus           | Wilden      | 0.1.0          |                                  |
| Pahuensis            | Wegerer     | 2.4.5          |                                  |
| Paludicola           | Marshall    | 2.3.0<br>3.3.0 | Species from different importers |
|                      | Henke       | 2.2.12         |                                  |
|                      | Chester zoo | 3.4.38+22      |                                  |
| Beleitung            | Wegerer     | 2.2.50         |                                  |
|                      |             |                |                                  |
| Group 3              |             |                |                                  |
| Linkei               |             |                |                                  |
| Nagyi<br>'cherating' | Wilden      | 2.2.30         |                                  |
|                      | schoubye    | 2.2.50         |                                  |
| Opallios             | Seifert     | 1.2.12         |                                  |
|                      | Hallmann    | 5.5.2          |                                  |
| Ornaticauda          | Wegerer     | 5.7.10         |                                  |
|                      | Menner      | 3.3.0          | PCBA                             |
| Parvulus             | Lasfar      | No report      |                                  |
|                      | Wegerer     | 3.10.0         |                                  |
| Phoenicurus          | Marshall    | 4.0.0          |                                  |
|                      | Chyla       | 1.1.4          |                                  |
| Quindecim            | Shi         |                |                                  |
|                      | Zoo berlin  | 2.2.0          |                                  |
|                      | Beu         | 0.0.10         |                                  |
|                      | Menner      | No report      | PCBA                             |
|                      |             |                |                                  |
| Cf. linkei           | Schoubye    | 50+            |                                  |

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|   |          |           |  |
|---|----------|-----------|--|
| Ampah                                     | Wagerer  | 4.6.0     |  |
| Sp. Rompin                                | Kristina | No report |  |
|   | Hallmann | 4.4.30    |  |
| Cf. filamentosus                          |          |           |  |
| Harveyi/cf. rubrimontis/sp. Tanjong malim |          |           |  |

## FACEBOOK GROUP

Our facebookgroup has been expanding, clearly establishing a community of people who wants to help each other - with technical issues, identification issues, sharing wonderful photoes. Thank you to everyone for sharing and making this such a very interesting group.

In November 2021 we initiated a thorough update of our homepage, at first in the English version, but hopefully soon in all three languages. We hope, and think that the homepage now is a little bit more modern, and inspiring, creating more space for important news and reports.

## NEW WEBSHOP

We have now created a webshop, in which you are able to order different items, such as stickers, mugs, t-shirts and posters.

Everything which is earned this way, will be going to cover our expences such as the homepage.

So please support us this way, we will be very happy - thank you

[shop \(german\)](#)

[shop \(english\)](#)



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## USA and UK coordinators

The Parosphromenus Project has over the years experienced a lot of growth, developments and new connections, but we have also become increasingly aware of a need for network, connections and for distribution of fish both in the USA, and UK.

So we welcome two new members of our Steering Group Team, Brian Martineau from Rhode Island, and Kevin Marshall from the UK.

You can read short introduction to both here, <https://parosphromenus-project.org/en/news-info/our-team>.

## New Partnerships

We have continued to build new relations and partnerships – in 2021 we can mention Berlin Zoo, Düsseldorf Zoo, Blue Planet /Dk,

Look for more information about the actual activities and projects on the homepage.

## Census of captive strains 2021 Autumn Parosphromenus Project

Assembled by Rafael Egli (Basel, Switzerland)

Period of data collection: 01.10.2021 – 14.11.2021

**Participation** (including negative reports): 54 ↑

We are pleased to report another slight rise in participation to the census, confirming the upwards trend started last year. For the first time, we have asked participants to share their home country (or state in the US) to get a better handle on redistribution. The vast majority of participants have included their location. In total, reports from 18 countries, states or territories have reached us, spanning 5 continents. European countries form the core with reports from 11 different states. We hope to increase our presence overseas in the future. Many local breeders are actively engaged in growing the community, which is of great importance.

We are pleased to have seen contributions from institutions in Denmark, the UK, Germany, Poland and Indonesia. The successes in breeding efforts at these zoos and conservation institutions have progressed in many cases, supporting the positive trend on this front.

Overall, the number of populations with known location/origin is increasing, providing better traceability and identification capabilities. We welcome this trend and hope the newly introduced variants will prevail within the network.



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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** @

**Very stable** populations with experienced breeders of the “*Sedili*” variant are accompanied by novel imports of the “*Kota Tinggi*” variant. Broader distribution of *cf. alfredi* is equally positive.

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

*P. allani* →!! **HIGH RISK**

**Only one population solely consisting of males** is alarming. Without further imports, this species will be lost within a few years.

*P. anjunganensis* → @

A rather positive situation has stabilized on **secure levels** of distribution. If breeding is kept up, *P. anjunganensis* should remain safe. Novel report of the “*Anjungan*” variant.

*P. barbarae* →!!! **HIGH RISK** @

Offspring from Seifert was redistributed, which is a positive sign. However, the low number of breeders is still a concern.

*P. bintan* ↑ @

Continuing strong reporting with many breeding successes provides a great base for the *cf. bintan* group. Important new **introduction of “*Bintan*” form**, which is the first variant of known location of origin.

*P. deissneri* ↑ @

**Distribution** of the “*neotype*” is **progressing well**. Novel reports of “*Bangka*” and “*Desa Kempinking*” are equally positive. If the various forms are successfully bred and transformed

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into sustainable populations, this can become one of the most significant success stories of the project.

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* →

**Stable but small population** size and breeder base. The "Siong" variety was not reported anymore.

#### *P. gunawani* ↑ @

**Increasing numbers** from various locations around the world are very positive. Two institutions currently keep this species.

#### *P. harveyi* →

Stable populations can be expanded by **successful breeding in numerous cases**. Two breeders expressed their **willingness to redistribute** some of their offspring. In case of interest, please contact us!

#### *P. linkei* → @

**Very positive** situation sustains. Two forms are by now kept by institutions.

#### *P. nagyi* ↑

Impressive number of variants with known location as well as **expanding keeper base are highly encouraging**. The different local variants should be obvious candidates for inclusion in Zoos or other institutions. Please contact us if there is interest in receiving some of the "Pekan Nenas".

#### *P. opallios* ↑ @

Redistribution was successful in increasing the keeper base and overall numbers. Up until recently, the situation was rather dim for *P. opallios* but we seem to have reversed this trend!

#### *P. ornaticauda* → @

Very **stable progress** has been made with regards to redistribution and breeding. The population seems to be in good shape.

#### *P. pahuensis* →!! HIGH RISK @

While the first report from Prigen is hopeful for the "Melak" variant, the **overall situation remains challenging** with only one private breeder keeping this unique species.

#### *P. paludicola* ↑ @

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Good progress on **distribution** alongside a strong representation at Chester Zoo make *P. paludicola* a stable species.

***P. parvulus*** ↓

**Decrease in keepers is alarming.** The well-known difficulties in reliable breeding could accentuate the situation further over the coming years.

***P. phoenicurus*** →

Stable but often small populations call for caution. Novel introduction of *cf. "Kiri"* with substantial numbers could open redistribution opportunities.

***P. quindecim*** ↓ !! **HIGH RISK.** @

Reduced numbers are problematic.

***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*** →

**Stable** yet rather small number of keepers and individuals.

***P. tweediei*** → **IUCN**

Very similar situation to last spring. Small, stable breeder base with potential for redistribution.

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** ↑ @

Introduction of numerous novel variants/species, often with limited numbers of keepers. **Notably, some are successfully bred with possibilities for redistribution.**

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