

Distribution and localities of Java medaka fish (*Oryzias javanicus*) in Peninsular Malaysia

ABSTRACT

The Java medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*) has recently been highlighted as potential indicator for tropical aquatic ecosystem. However, unlike its Japanese counterpart the Japanese medaka (*Oryzias latipes*) which has been extensively studied, little information can be obtained on Java medaka population in Malaysia. Despite the growing interest and studies on the fish in the Asian region, its distribution and locality are not well known and this complicates sampling activity in the field as well as obtaining living specimen for laboratory culture purposes. Java medaka population can be easily found in the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia and can withstand wide range of salinity level from estuary and brackish water to freshwater river. However, the fish is not present in the east coast and several factors contributing to their non-distribution are discussed in this paper. The finding provides the first record on the detailed occurrence and distribution of Java medaka fish in Peninsular Malaysia and can also serve as a guide for fish collectors or enthusiast in the country to engage closely with the subject.

Keyword: Java medaka; Distribution; Locality; Peninsular Malaysia; Tropical aquatic ecosystem