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Local News

Yet another rare fish species find

27 May 2006

[Rosli Zakaria](#)

DUNGUN: A third species of the world's smallest fish from the genus Paedocypris has been found in a peat swamp in the foothills of Bukit Bauk urban recreational forest.

Biology lecturer Amirrudin Ahmad of Kolej Universiti Sains Malaysia discovered the fish during a three-day scientific expedition in the reserve.

The first freshwater specimen, Paedocypris megamegenethes, was found in Kuching and Bukit Merah, Perak, in 2001. The second, identified as Paedocypris progenitica, was found in Sumatra in 2004.



A species of the world's smallest fish (compared against a finger) found in a peat swamp in Dungun. — NST picture by Imran Makhzan

"This discovery was the highlight of the Bukit Bauk expedition," said Professor Datuk Dr Abdul Latiff Mohammad, who led the team.

"We are confident this will attract biologists from around the world to do more research on the bio-diversity of Bukit Bauk," he added.

Amirrudin said the new discovery was significant because it was the only undisturbed habitat of this species.

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"There are still thousands of the fish in that peat swamp. My worry is that this habitat will end up like the one in Bukit Merah, disturbed by the construction of a road that killed all the specimens," he said.

The Bukit Bauk expedition also uncovered many rare herbaceous and plant species, as well as insects, bats and birds.

Abdul Latiff said Bukit Bauk was an important gene bank for a variety of herbs and rare plants, including palms and ginger.

The expedition ended yesterday.

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