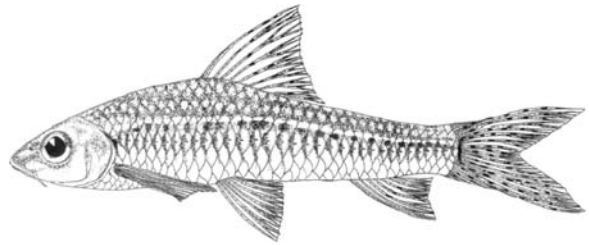


## Threatened fishes of the world: *Squalidus banarescui* Chen and Chang, 2007 (Cyprinidae)

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**Common names:** Banarescu's gudgeon; Ba-Shih-Yin-Ju (Mandarin). **Conservation status:** Critically endangered for governmental conservation-list, but not listed IUCN Red-list. **Identification:** D 3+7; P 1+13; A 3+6; LL 34–36; PreD10-11; Ph 5.3-3.5. Body elongate, compressed. Eye large. Mouth terminal. Two short barbels present. Body greenish-silver dorsally, silver-white ventrally. Dorsal side scattered with black spots. Snout with lateral black bar. Each lateral-line scale with L-shaped black mark. Dorsal, caudal fins with minute black spots. A longitudinal shiny-green stripe with 6-7 rounded grey spots. Size 4–7 cm, maximum 8 cm (SL) (Chen and Chang 2007). **Distribution:** Endemic only in middle to lower reaches of Wu River, Taiwan (Chen and Chang 2007). **Abundance:** An estimated 6–10 adult individuals per 10 m<sup>2</sup> of stream in the densest populations. The fish



population has dramatically declined since 2006. **Habitat and ecology:** Habitat somewhat similar to *S. ijimae*. Freshwater benthopelagic (0.5–2.5 m) species prefers moderate to warm (20–27°C), weakly alkaline (pH 7.2–8.4), well-oxygenated (DO > 60%), slight turbid (0–250 NTU), rather slow flowing (< 30 cm·s<sup>-1</sup>) waters in lower and middle stream reaches around 10–150 m of altitude (Chen and Chang 2005; Chen 2009). Adults prefer feeding on small aquatic invertebrates. **Reproduction:** No distinct reproductive migration observed. Juveniles appear mainly during March to July. Spawning sticky eggs on vegetation (Chen and Chang 2005). **Threats:** (1) Riparian habitat serious destruction; (2) illegal electro-fishing; (3) water pollution into the main basin; and (4) severe competition for ecological niches with invasive species like cichlids (Chen 2001). **Conservation action:** This species has just been listed in the governmental conservation-list of Taiwan as “Critically Endangered” in March 2009. **Conservation recommendation:** Avoid and eliminate exotic species, protect natural river habitats, restore riparian habitats for the species, prohibit illegal fishing.

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*Remarks:* It was mistakenly identified as *Squalidus ijimae* till 2005 (Banareescu and Nalbant 1973).

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