

## Project Update: June 2020

We have completed the field trips to survey distribution of yellow tail brook barb *Poropuntius deauratus* in the Gianh, Con, Ô Lâu, Bồ, Hương, Thu Bồn and Trà Khúc drainages of coastal central Vietnam. A total of 158 specimens belonging to genus *Poropuntius* were recorded from all sampling sites in central Vietnam. They are usually found in stream pools with clear water. Yellow tail brook barbs, *Poropuntius* spp., are commonly known as “Sao”. They are sold occasionally at local markets for food, 1 kg of *Poropuntius* spp. costs 80.000vnd ~ \$3.50. The morphological characteristics of *Poropuntius* specimens were examined. The pelvic fin clips of 138 specimens were stored in 95% ethanol for DNA extraction.

Specimens are 3.5 – 22.3 cm in standard length. Based on morphological characteristics, the specimens were divided into two groups: group A (be identified as *Poropuntius* cf. *normani*) and group B (be identified as *Poropuntius deauratus*) according to Serov et al. 2006, Roberts 1998, and Rainboth 1996.

All COI sequences of specimens from group A and group B matched 99-100% with COI sequences of *Poropuntius* cf. *normani* from Cambodia (Genbank accession: MK116345), *Poropuntius* cf. *normani* from Laos (Genbank accession: KY319985) and *Poropuntius* cf. *normani* from Thailand (Genbank accession: MK448168). These results supported the view that the specimens of group A and B are the same species. Thus, *Poropuntius deauratus* and *Poropuntius* cf. *normani* are the same species. *Poropuntius deauratus* was described by Valenciennes (1842) earlier than *Poropuntius* cf. *normani* was described by Smith (1931). Therefore, *Poropuntius* cf. *normani* should be junior synonym of *Poropuntius deauratus* (morphological characters: bright or pale-yellow caudal fin with black sub marginal stripes, 25–36 scales in lateral line, and 11–14 gill rakers on the first gill arch). The distribution of *Poropuntius deauratus* is not restricted in central Vietnam: between the Gianh River (Quảng Bình Province) and the Trà Khúc River (Quảng Ngãi Province) but also in Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos.

Now our team is discussing about the results to finish the Final Evaluation Report for the submission in June 2020.