

SHORT COMMUNICATION

## THREATENED FISHES OF THE WORLD: *Chondrostoma kinzelbachi* KRUPP, 1985 (CYPRINIDAE)

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### ABSTRACT

Orontes nase, *Chondrostoma kinzelbachi* is an endangered freshwater fish species in Turkey and Syria. Populations are declining due to dam construction and water pollution. Orontes nase populations should be completely protected.

### COMMON NAMES

Asi kababurun baligi (Tr), Orontes nase (Eng) (Fig 1).

### CONSERVATION STATUS

IUCN International Red List: endangered ENB2ab(iii) (Crivelli, 2006); Turkey: Critically endangered (Fricke et al. 2007).

### IDENTIFICATION

D III/ (8)9(10), A III/10-11, Ll. 63-69, gill rakers 24-28. The body is elongate and moderately compressed.

The dorsal profile of the head is slightly convex. The mouth is inferior, the anterior margin of the lower jaw is gently arched and covered with a sharp corneous layer, the upper lip is very thin, barbels are absent. The lateral line is complete. The upper margin of the dorsal fin is straight or slightly concave (Krupp, 1985).

### DISTRIBUTION

*C. kinzelbachi* is endemic to the River Orontes basin in Turkey and Syria (Krupp, 1985). Also, it is found in Gölbaşı Lake (36° 32' N 36° 30' E) in Hatay (Turkey) (Bostancı, 2006) (Fig 2).



Fig. 1. Orontes nase, *Chondrostoma kinzelbachi* (photo G. Özcan)

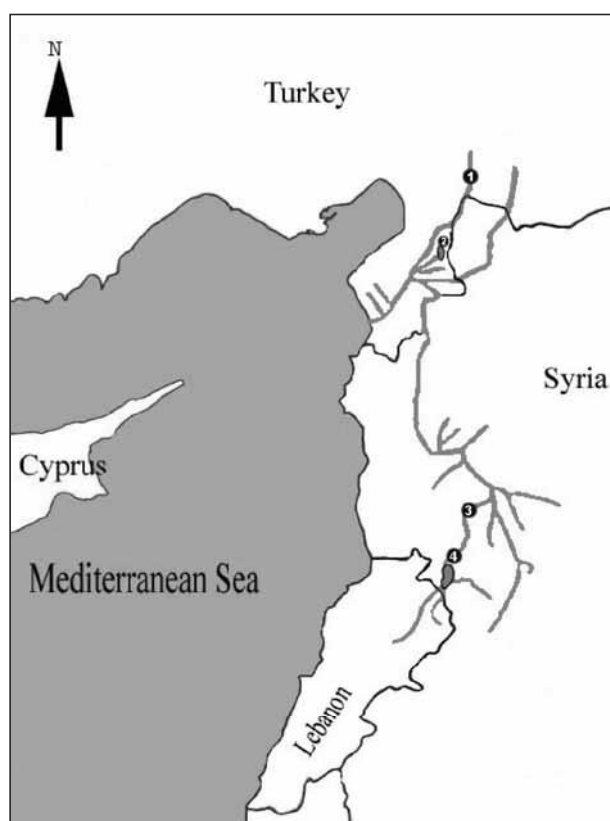


Fig. 2. Map of distribution of existed nase populations in Turkey and Syria (1: Karasu, 2: Gölbaşı Lake, 3: Buhairat ar-Rastan, 4: Buhairat Hims)

## ABUNDANCE

Restricted to the River Orontes basin. No data on population size, but according to a survey of the river and catchments, the species was found in only two locations in Turkey; the River Karasu and Gölbaşı Lake, and three locations in Syria (Krupp, 1985; Bostancı, 2006). This species is represented with low abundances in certain localities in Turkey. The population status of the Syrian part is unknown.

## HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Mostly a riverine species, but lacustrine forms are also described. This species needs well-oxygenated water for spawning. Feeds on algae from rock surfaces (Crivelli, 2006). *C. kinzelbachi* occurs in gravel, stone and vegetated areas in Gölbaşı Lake (Bostancı, 2006).

## REPRODUCTION

The reproductive biology of Orontes Nase is unknown.

## THREATS

Populations of *C. kinzelbachi* are threatened by habitat loss, water extraction, eutrophication/pollution and destruction of shallow water habitats by the construction of dams (Crivelli, 2006; Fricke et al. 2007). The species is sensitive to chemical (ammonia) pollution which also reduces its populations (Crivelli 2006).

## CONSERVATION ACTION

The species is officially protected by the prohibition of fishing during spawning season in Turkey. Conservation action on the Syrian part of the river is still unknown (Crivelli, 2006).

## CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Studies on biology and ecology of this species are required. Remaining populations of the species should be completely protected. Biological research for population size and structure, habitat requirement and reproduction ecology are required in Turkey and Syria. Pollution from industrial and domestic effluent should be reduced. Water extraction for agriculture and dam construction must be controlled.

## REMARKS

*C. kinzelbachi* differs from all other members of this genus by a modal pharyngeal tooth formula of 7-7 (Krupp, 1985).

## Sažetak

### UGROŽENE RIBE SVIJETA: *Chondrostoma kinzelbachi* KRUPP, 1985 (CYPRINIDAE)

Sirijski podust, *Chondrostoma kinzelbachi* je ugrožena slatkovodna riblja vrsta u Turskoj i Siriji. Broj populacije je u opadanju zbog izgradnje brana i onečišćenja voda. Potrebno je u potpunosti zaštititi njihove populacije.

**Ključne riječi:** sirijski podust, *Chondrostoma kinzelbachi*, očuvanje

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