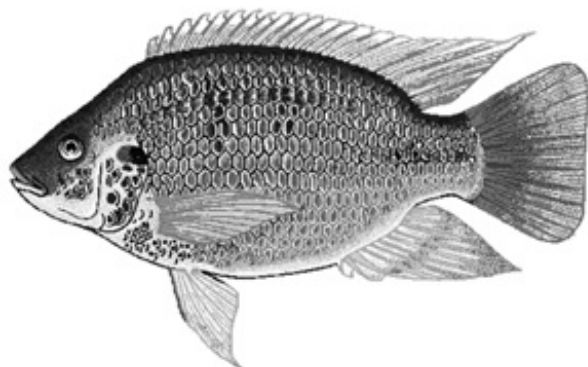




Species Fact Sheets

Oreochromis mossambicus (Peters, 1852)



Oreochromis mossambicus: [\(click for more\)](#)



Oreochromis mossambicus: [\(click for more\)](#)

Synonyms

- *Chromis (Tilapia) mossambicus* Peters, 1852: 681 (original description).
- *Chromis dumerilii* Steindachner, 1864: 225.
- *Chromis vorax* Pfeffer, 1893: 151.
- *Chromis natalensis* Weber, 1897: 147.
- *Tilapia arnoldi* Gilchrist & Thompson, 1917: 497.
- *Tilapia mossambica* Lee et al., 1980: 774.
- *Sarotherodon mossambicus* Pethiyagoda, 1991: 236.

FAO Names

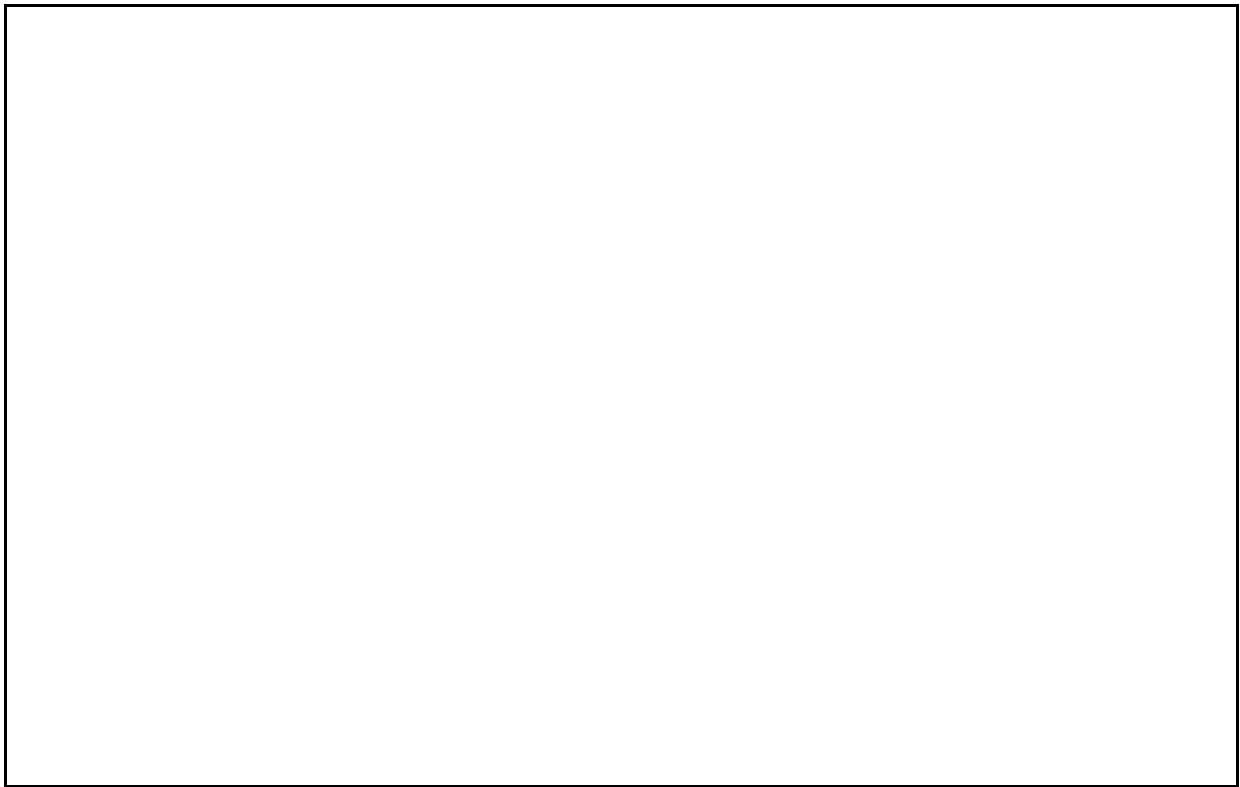
En - Mozambique tilapia, Fr - Tilapia du Mozambique, Sp - Tilapia del Mozambique.

3Alpha Code: TLM Taxonomic Code: 1705905101

Diagnostic Features

Body compressed; caudal peduncle longer than deep. Scales cycloid. A knob-like protuberance present behind upper jaw on dorsal surface of snout. Upper jaw length shows sexual dimorphism, and mouth of male larger than that of female. First gill arch with 20 to 22 gillrakers. Lateral line interrupted. Spinous and soft ray parts of dorsal fin continuous. Dorsal fin with 15 to 18 spines and 10 to 13 soft rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 9-10 rays. Caudal fin truncated. Colour in spawning season, pectoral, dorsal and caudal fins becoming reddish; colour male shows much brighter orange tail than female.

Geographical Distribution



Launch the Aquatic Species Distribution map viewer

Native of East Africa to Natal; Illovo, Mazoe, and Zambezi Rivers, Mozambique, Rhodesia, Natal. Brought into Japan from Thailand in 1954; distributed in hot spring areas from Hokkaido to Kyushu and Okinawa, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, and India.

Habitat and Biology

Freshwater and brackish water inhabitants. Lives in warm, weedy pools of sluggish stream, canals, and ponds. Is mainly diurnal. Occurs at temperatures ranging from 8° to 42° C.

The female usually incubates the spawn; the male should be removed as soon after spawning as possible. May form schools. Omnivorous, feeds on almost anything from algae to insects but also crustaceans, and fishes. Can be reared under hypersaline conditions.

Spawn all year around when kept in warm water (above 20° C).

Size

To 36 cm.

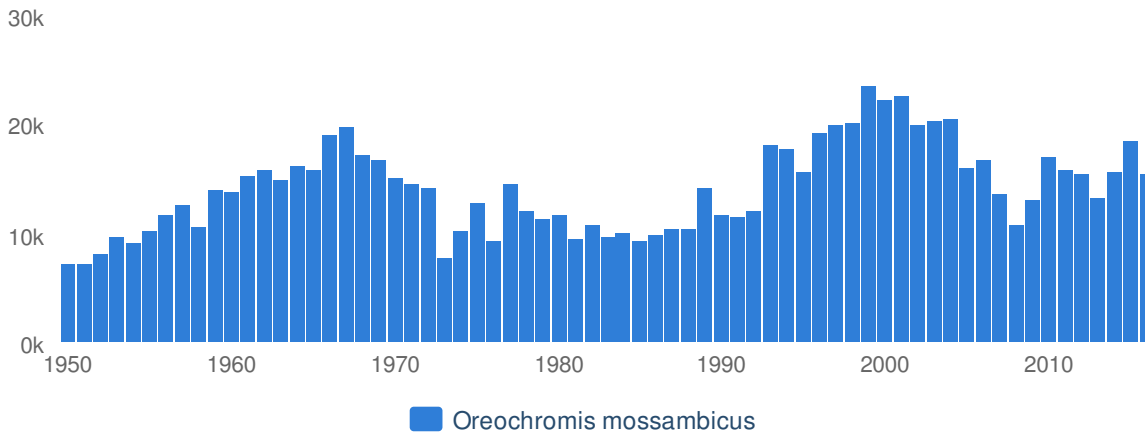
Interest to Fisheries

Important food fish in Southeast Asia. Caught with seines, set-nets, traps, and gillnets. The total catch reported for this species to FAO for 1999 was 20 500 t. The countries with the largest catches were Indonesia (18 190 t) and Papua New Guinea (2 310 t).

Marketed fresh and frozen. Imported for the purposes of fish culture and now forms wild populations.

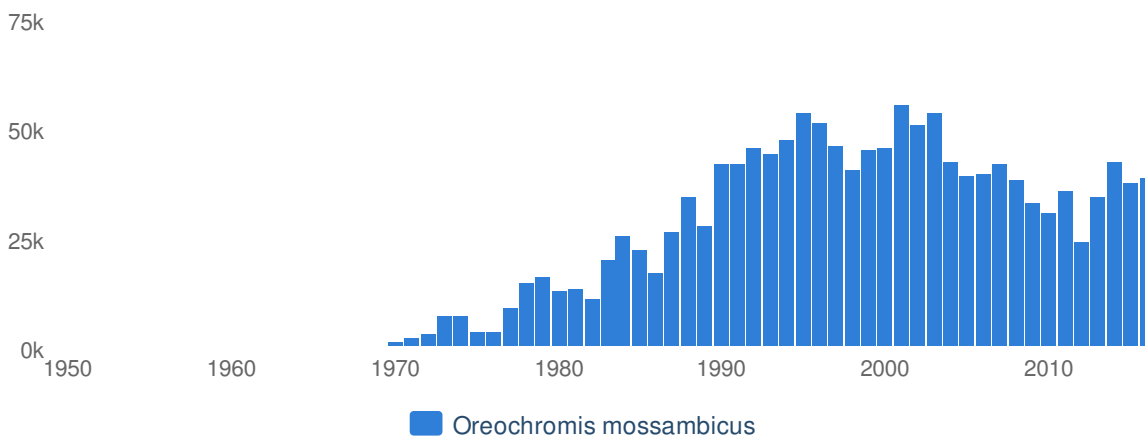
Global Capture Production for species (tonnes)

Source: [FAO FishStat](#)



Global Aquaculture Production for species (tonnes)

Source: [FAO FishStat](#)



Local Names

Cantonese : Fai chau chak ue , Gam san tsak .

English : African mouthbrooder , Java tilapia , Largemouth kurper , Mozambique mouthbrooder , Tilapia , Kurper bream .

Japanese : Kawasuzume .

Khmer : Trey tilapi khmao .

Malay/Indonesian : Tilapia .

Mandarin Chinese : Wu-kuo yu .

Related links

- Check this species at FishBase

Bibliography

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Rainboth, W.L. - 1996FAO species identification field guide for fishery purposes. Fishes of the Cambodian Mekong. Rome, FAO. 1996: 265 pp.

Uyeno, T. & E. Fujii. - 1984 Cichlidae. In: H. Masuda; K. Amaoka; C. Araga; T. Uyeno; T. Yoshino (eds.). The Fishes of the Japanese Archipelago. Tokai. Univ. Press. 190-191.

