

Project Update: May 2011

During the first 4 months (January-May 2011), we conducted four major project activities including collection of specimens, habitat assessment, conservation education and fish taxonomy training. We sampled all project sites and collected about 600 specimens of cyprinids from six genera. Initial examination of cyprinid specimens revealed exciting discoveries including two new genus records (one for Palawan Island and one for Philippines), plus three undescribed cyprinid species. Unfortunately, habitat quality surveys revealed varying degrees of degradation in our sampling sites. From February to April 2011, information education campaigns were conducted specifically targeting the local government officials of the municipality of Taytay, Puerto Princesa City, and the provincial government of Palawan. The first freshwater fish taxonomy training was also conducted last March 2011, attended by at least 25 BS Aquatic Biology, Fisheries, and Environmental Management students of Western Philippines University. An in-depth taxonomic analysis is currently ongoing.



Left: A BS Fisheries student showing the cyprinids we caught in Iwahig River. Middle: Sampling with local fishermen in Babuyan River. Right: The quiet waters of Babuyan River, the largest river in Palawan.



Left: Sieving in one of the rivers in Northern Palawan. Middle: The research grantee with a BS Fisheries student examining cyprinid fishes collected from Iwahig River. Right: Student trainees measuring fish samples during the freshwater fish taxonomy training.