

# Fishes of Saudi Arabia

## Freshwater Fishes of Saudi Arabia

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Abstract: This work reports on the first comprehensive scientific-collection of freshwater fishes from Saudi Arabia. The collections include the first record of the genus *Acanthobrama* from the Arabian Peninsula. A new species, *Cyprinion mhalensis* is described. Unusual specimens of *Garra*, *Barbus*, and *Cyprinion* indicate the occurrence of other undescribed species.

A comprehensive appraisal of geological, geographical and climatic events correlated with zoogeographical evidence and an interpretation of the degree of divergence in living species can provide an interpretation of factors explaining the present distribution and taxonomy of freshwater fishes.

Cultural and religious bases are presented as a rationale for preserving and protecting the native fishes of Arabia as a part of the biological heritage of the land.