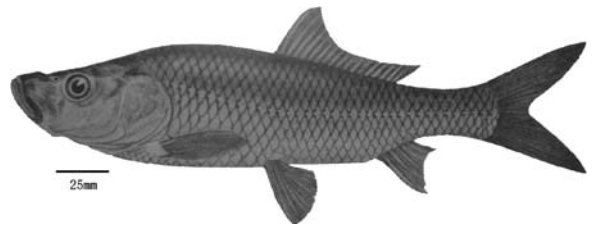


Threatened fishes of the world: *Cyprinus ilishaestomus* (Chen & Hwang, 1977) (cyprinidae)

GuangFu Hu · XiangJiang Liu

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Common name: Top-mouth carp (English), Longyan carp (Chinese). **Conservation status:** Critically endangered, Class II protected animal of Yunnan Province (Yue and Chen 1998). **Identification:** D.IV, 16–17; A. III, 5; P.I, 16–17; V.I, 8–9. Gill rakers: upper 20–22, lower 28–29 (Chu and Chen 1989). Body typically carp-like, mouth is superior, no barbels, body covered with large scales, eyes are large. Yellowish green dorsum, the abdominal region is silvery white (Yue and Chen 1998). **Drawing by** Wu XW (Wu 1982). **Distribution:** *C. ilishaestomus* is restricted to the Qilu Lake of Yunnan Province, China (Wang 1979). **Abundance:** Formerly an economically important fish, but its numbers dropped sharply since the 1970s and now it is almost extinct. **Habitat and ecology:** Dwells mainly in deep water. It is an omnivore, feeds on shrimps, small fishes and some aquatic plants. **Threats:** Habitat degradation is the critical threat, including water pollution and reduction of the lake area. Introduced grass carp, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*, grazed macrophytes heavily and reduced habitat and food of *C. ilishaestomus*. Overfishing also



remains a threat to the species. **Conservation action:** No specific action has been adopted. **Conservation recommendation:** First, protect the ecological environment for the Top-mouth carp in Qilu Lake. In addition, biological research on population ecology, habitat requirements and reproduction are required.

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G. Hu (✉) · X. Liu
College of Fishery, Huazhong Agricultural University,
Wuhan, Hubei, China 430070
e-mail: huguangfu@126.com