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Threatened fishes of the world: *Hucho bleekeri* Kimura, 1934 (Salmonidae)

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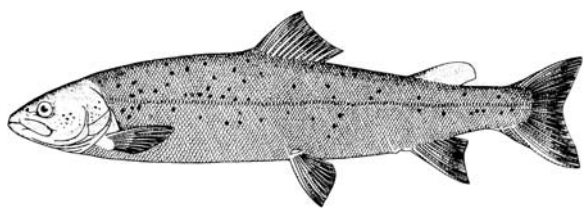
Abstract Conservation status, identification, distribution, habitat and ecology, reproduction, threats, conservation actions and recommendations of a critically endangered fish, *Hucho bleekeri* Kimura, which is endemic to China, was introduced.

Keywords *Hucho bleekeri* Kimura · Threatened fishes

Common name: Chuanshan taimen. **Conservation status**: Critically endangered, Category II, State Key Protected Wildlife List (1988) and China Red Data Book (Yue and Chen 1998). **Identification**: Body dark gray on back, belly silvery white; small cross-shaped spots scattered on body and gill cover. D iii 10, A iii 7, P 12, V 9, Ll. scales 125–152, gill rakers 14; adipose and anal fins opposite; pyloric caeca 65–120 (Kimura 1934). Adults to 720 mm FL (Wu and Chen 1979). **Distribution**: Endemic to China in the upstream of Mingjiang River in Sichuan Province, the upstream of Dadu River in Qinghai Province and the Xushui and Taibaihe rivers in the upper reaches of the Hanjiang River, Shanxi Province. **Habitat and ecology**: Prefers mountain brooks at 700–3,300 m above sea level with sandy and gravel bottom, narrow river bed, current, high dissolved oxygen (>5 mg/l), and low water temperature (<15°C). A ferocious carnivore, feeding on other fishes, as well as aquatic insects. **Reproduction**: Sexual maturity usually over 3 years, spawns March to May, at 4–10°C (Tang et al. 2006). Spawning sites are generally mountain streams with sandy and gravel bottom. **Threats**: Population has declined seriously since 1960s mainly due to habitat destruction, such as hydroelectric projects and water pollution. The sex ratio (F/M) of spawners significantly skewed towards males (Zhou and Wu 1987). Heavy fishing pressure on spawning adults and young fish, and incomplete regulation of fisheries has produced recruitment declines (Dong et al. 1998). **Conservation action**: No specific action has been adopted. **Conservation recommendation**: Strengthen natural habitats protection. Stock fingerlings from captive breeding. Fishing regulations need to be further enhanced. Biological research for population size and structure, habitat requirement and reproduction ecology are required.



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