**Tilapia walteri**  
Ecological Risk Screening Summary  

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, June 2015

Photo not available.

1 Native Range, and Status in the United States

Native Range
From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Africa: Cavally and Nipoué (= Cess) Rivers in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia; also reported from the upper St. John River in Liberia [Teugels and Thys van den Audenaerde 1992, 2003].”

Status in the United States
This species has not been reported in the U.S.

Means of Introductions in the United States
This species has not been reported in the U.S.

2 Biology and Ecology

Taxonomic Hierarchy and Taxonomic Standing
From ITIS (2015):

“Kingdom Animalia  
Subkingdom Bilateria  
Infra kingdom Deuterostomia  
Phylum Chordata  
Subphylum Vertebrata  
Infraphylum Gnathostomata  
Superclass Osteichthyes  
Class Actinopterygii  
Subclass Neopterygii  
Infraclass Teleostei  
Superorder Acanthopterygii  
Order Perciformes  
Suborder Labroidei  
Family Cichlidae  
Genus Tilapia  
Species *Tilapia walteri* Thys van den Audenaerde, 1968”
“Taxonomic Status: valid”

Size, Weight, and Age Range
From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Max length: 27.0 cm TL male/unsexed; [Teugels and Thys van den Audenaerde 1991]”

Environment
From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Freshwater; benthopelagic.”

Climate/Range
From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Tropical; 24°C - 26°C [Baensch and Riehl 1995]; 8°N - 5°N”

Distribution Outside the United States
Native
From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Africa: Cavally and Nipoué (= Cess) Rivers in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia; also reported from the upper St. John River in Liberia [Teugels and Thys van den Audenaerde 1992, 2003].”

Introduced
No introductions of this species have been reported.

Means of Introduction Outside the United States
No introductions of this species have been reported.

Short description
From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Dorsal spines (total): 15 - 16; Dorsal soft rays (total): 12-13; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 9 - 10. Diagnosis: lower pharyngeal bone about as long as broad, with anterior lamella shorter than toothed area; median pharyngeal teeth not broadened; upper part of caudal fin yellow-orange, lower part greyish; dorsal fin with 15-16 spines and 12-14 soft rays; 9-13 lower gill-rakers [Teugels and Thys van den Audenaerde 2003].”

Biology
No information available.
Human uses
From Awaïss and Lalèyè (2010):

“This species is harvested for human consumption.”

Diseases
From le Roux and Avenant-Oldewage (2010):

“C[ichlidogyrus] aegypticus Ergens 1981 … Other host/s: Tilapia walteri
C. arthrakanthus Paperna 1960 … Other host/s: Tilapia walteri
C. cubitus Dossou 1982 … Other host/s: Tilapia walteri
C. digitatus Dossou 1982 … Other host/s: Tilapia walteri
C. ergensi Dossou 1982 … Other host/s: Tilapia walteri
Other host/s: Tilapia walteri
C. tiberianus Paperna 1960 … Other host/s: Tilapia walteri
C. yanni Pariselle and Euzet 1996 … Other host/s: Tilapia walteri”

No OIE-notifiable diseases have been reported for this species.

Threat to humans
From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Harmless”

3 Impacts of Introductions
No introductions of this species have been reported.

4 Global Distribution

Figure 1. Global distribution of T. walteri. Map from GBIF (2015).
5 Distribution within the United States

This species has not been reported in the U.S.

6 Climate Matching

Summary of Climate Matching Analysis

The climate match (Sanders et al. 2014; 16 climate variables; Euclidean Distance) was low throughout the contiguous U.S., reflected in a Climate 6 proportion of 0.0. The range for a low climate match is 0.000 to 0.005.

Figure 2. RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) source map showing weather stations selected as source locations (red) and non-source locations (gray) for *T. walteri* climate matching. Source locations from GBIF (2015).
Figure 3. Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) climate matches for *T. walteri* in the continental United States based on source locations reported by GBIF (2015). 0= Lowest match, 10=Highest match. Counts of climate match scores are tabulated on the left.

7 Certainty of Assessment

Little information is available on the biology of *T. walteri* and it has not become established outside its native range. The certainty of this assessment is high because the lack of information about this species precludes any assessment other than “uncertain” risk.

8 Risk Assessment

Summary of Risk to the Continental United States

*Tilapia walteri* is a benthopelagic cichlid native to river systems in Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia. It has not been reported as introduced outside of this location. Because *T. walteri* has no history of invasiveness, it is currently impossible to know what impacts *T. walteri* might have if introduced to the U.S. Climate match to the contiguous U.S. is low. Overall risk posed by this species is uncertain.
Assessment Elements

☐ History of Invasiveness (Sec. 3): Uncertain
☐ Climate Match (Sec. 6): Low
☐ Certainty of Assessment (Sec. 7): High
☐ Overall Risk Assessment Category: Uncertain
9 References

Note: The following references were accessed for this ERSS. References cited within quoted text but not accessed are included below in Section 10.


10 References Quoted But Not Accessed

Note: The following references are cited within quoted text within this ERSS, but were not accessed for its preparation. They are included here to provide the reader with more information.

