

**EGG AND EARLY LARVAL DEVELOPMENT OF SNOW TROUT,
SCHIZOTHORAX RICHARDSONII (CYPRINIDAE), AN IMPORTANT FOOD
FISH OF GARHWAL HIMALAYA, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA**

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ABSTRACT

Experiments were conducted to study hatching time and embryo development of *S.richardsonii* in laboratory conditions. After fertilization considerable changes takes place inside the egg of *S. richardsonii* as the development of blastodisc was just after 2 hours of fertilization. Morula stage developed after 10–12 hours. The embryo had begun with a particular shape in 56–72 hours stage, while the beginning of cephalic end was clear with an oval extension of embryo was more or less pea shaped up-to this time. In the 82 hours of embryo, the elongate structure was developed over the yolk, a small head with a tapering tale. The further elongation and differentiation of embryo takes place up-to 106 hours after fertilization. The movement of embryo was quite vigorous and ready to hatch after 116–122 hours in laboratory as well as in natural site. This study is an effort to evaluate captive breeding programs and aquaculture potential of this native species.

Key words-*Schizothorax richardsonii*, embryonic development, egg hatching, characteristics of larvae, larval developmental stages

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