PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE POPULATION STRUCTURE OF *MASTACEMBELUS ARMATUS* (LACEPEDE) IN RIVER NAYAR, GARHWAL HIMALAY, UTTARAKHAND

MOHD RASHID AND A. K. DOBRIYAL
Department of Zoology, HNB Garhwal University
(A Central University), Pauri Campus, Garhwal, Uttarakhand- 246001

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ABSTRACT

*Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacepede) is an eel like fish locally called Gair is inhabited in the river Nayar of Garhwal Himalaya. The paper deals with population structure analysis of the fish from river Nayar during January to December, 2014 in district Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. Sex ratio from a sample size of 59 specimens was analysed moth wise and also season wise to see whether the population structure is natural or not. The significance was tested by Chi-square test. It was observed that there was significant difference in sex ratio almost throughout the year ($\chi^2 = 4.898$; Table value- $\chi^2_{0.05} = 0.46$) which is an important reason of its low population. Steps towards conservation of species are required, which we intend to do in near future.

KEYWORDS: *Mastacembelus armatus*, Population structure, River Nayar

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