

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY OF COBITID FISH *LEPIDOCEPHALUS GUNTEA* (HAMILTON-BUCHANAN) : POPULATION STRUCTURE

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ABSTRACT

The paper deals with population study of cobitid fish *Lepidocephalus guntea* (Ham-Buch) from rivar Mandal (longitude 78°17'15"E-78°55'20" E and latitude 29°45'N-29°55'40"N) during July to December, 2011 in district Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. Sex ratio from a sample size of 57 specimens was analysed month wise and also season wise to see whether there is any disturbance in population. The significance was tested by Chi-square test. It was observed that only during monsoon season, the sex ratio differed significantly being 1 male: 1.4 female ($\chi^2= 0.92$; Table value- $\chi^2_{05} = 0.46$). In rest of the seasons and independently during different months, the sex ratio is insignificant. It clearly indicates that the low size of male population may lead into low fertility of the species and hence it should be taken care of during conservation efforts of the species.

Keywords: *Lepidocephalus guntea*, Population structure, River Mandal

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