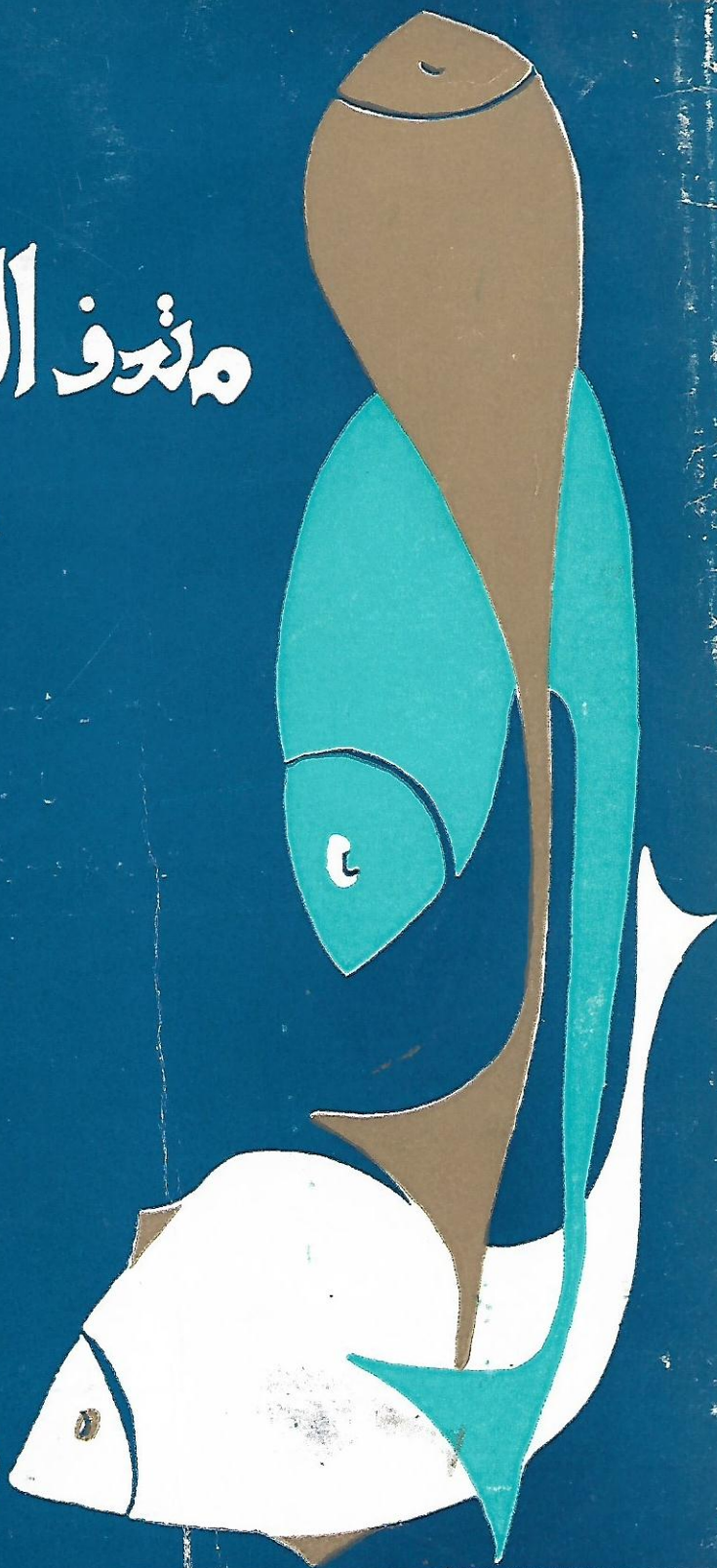


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SOME NOTES ON THE LARVAE
AND JUVENILES OF HALF-BEAK,
HEMIRHAMPHUS XANTHOPTERUS (VAL)

IN IRAQI WATERS

SUFIAN K. AL-NASIRI

Department of Fisheries, University of Basrah

and

S. M. SHAMSUL HODA

Basrah Natural History Museum, University of Basrah

Basrah, Iraq

Biologists, while investigating the lifehistory, distribution, spawning and systematics of a species, recognize the need of identifying the larvae and juveniles of fishes. During the survey of fish fauna of Shatt-Al-Arab from September 1973 to August 1974, the authors collected a number of larval and juvenile fishes by hand nets. In these collections the following fishes were found : juveniles of *Mugil hishni* Misra, cyprinoid larvae, *Garra rufus* Heckel, *Aphanius dispar* Ruppel and *Hemirhamphus xanthopterus* (Valenciennes).

The halfbeaks abound in warm water and breed in quiet water. The eggs are demersal and adhesive, and become entangled with their filaments to the plants until the larvae emerge. There is no information on the biology of Hemirhamphidae from Shatt-Al-Arab and Arabian Gulf though considerable attention has been paid to the larval studies from Indian waters i. e., the larval and postlarval stages of *H. limbatus* Cuv. Val. (Bhattacharya 1910) from Chilka lake, *H. gaimardi* Cuv. Val. (Job and Jones 1938; Nair 1952), *H. georgii* Cuv. Val. (Devanesan 1937, Chidambaram

and Menon 1948, Kuthalingam 1959), *H. far* (Forsk.) (Vijayaraghavan 1957) from Madras coast, *Zenarchopterus buffoni* Cuv. Val. (Jones and Pantulu 1958) from Orissa coast, *Hyprhamphus quoyi* Cuv. Val. (Sudarsan 1967) from Mandapam area and *H. marginatus* (Forsk.) (Talwar 1962,67) from Gulf of Manar and Palk Bay.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Fifty-one specimens of *H. xanthopterus*, 5.8- 69 mm in total length, were collected from near Chibashi Creek (Shatt-Al-Arab) on May 15, August 8 and 30, 1974 at low tides with $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ long hand nets from the boat; the Chibashi Creek lies nearly 110 km upstream from Arabian Gulf at Fao. Both fresh and preserved (10 % neutral formalin) specimens were studied. Ocular micrometers were used for measuring small larvae and their parts.

OBSERVATIONS

The larvae were found leaping along the waves away or near the shore generally among *Pharagmatius communis* Trim. The specimens larger than 40 mm in total length were difficult to net because of their swift leaping along the water.

The following stages were represented; their measurements are given in table 1.

Larva: 5.8-7.5 mm in total length (Fig. 1,A)

Long, slender and transparent. The yolk absorbed, dorsal, caudal and anal fins continuous but the demarcations for dorsal and anal fins distinguishable. The pectoral fins transparent, short and round; pelvic fins absent; caudal nearly truncate with 12-14 rudimentary rays. Myomeres 61; anus opened at 40th myomere and had 21 post-anal myomeres.

Mouth superior, the lower jaw lifted up and pigmented with rounded melanophores. On the upper jaw the pigments grouped into specific spots

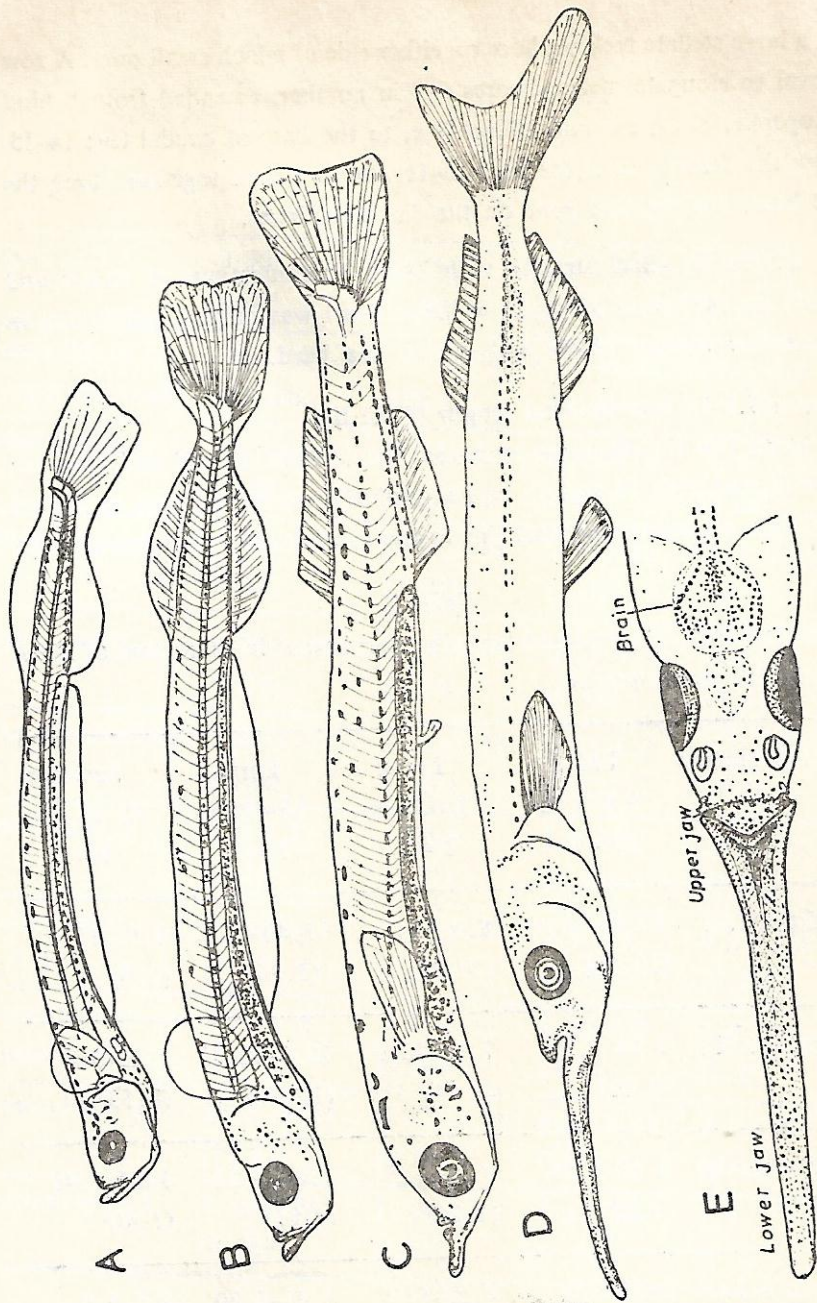


Fig 1: Larvae and juvenile of *Hemirhamphus xanthopterus*, A. Larva 5.8; B. Larva: 8,0; C. Larva 14.8; D. Juvenile 45 (total length measurement in mm); D: dorsal view of the head of D:

i.e., a large stellate melanophore on either side of which small ones. A row of oval to elongate melanophores 6-7 in number, extended from behind the opercle, along the mid-lateral line, to the base of caudal fin; 14-15 below the future dorsal fin and 15-16 almost linked together along the anal base. No pigment spot on the fin membranes.

The alimentary canal straight with heavy concentrations of round and stellate melanophores along its wall. The heart was marked palpitating in the cardiac coelom below and behind the head.

Larva : 7.5-12 mm in total length (Fig.1,B)

The lower jaw slightly more elongated than before. Dorsal and anal fins differentiated with 14 and 15 rays respectively and caudal rays numbered 16. Origin of dorsal and anal fins at the same level. Pelvic fins absent.

Table 1.

Measurements of larval and juvenile morphometric characters of *Hemirhamphus xanthopterus*

Measurements	Larva	Larva	Larva	Juvenile
	5.8-7 mm N=5	8-12 mm N=5	13-18 mm N=5	45-69 mm N=2
Height in T.L.	10.44-10.91 (10.68)	8.0-12.22 (10.92)	11.40-13.0 (12.26)	8.62-11.3 (9.9)
Height in S.L.	7.94-9.37 (8.66)	7.84-10.9 (9.54)	10.6-10.87 (10.74)	7.25-9.8 (8.52)
Width of body in height	3.50-2.56 (3.03)	0.94-1.5 (1.36)	1.08-3.33 (1.85)	1.35-1.45 (1.40)
Head in T.L.	5.13-5.0 (5.07)	4.50-6.0 (5.15)	5.41-6.30 (5.73)	4.5-5.3 (4.9)

Cont:..

Head in S. L.	3.90-4.28 (4.09)	3.9-5.26 (4.60)	4.52-5.60 (5.40)	3.9-5.2 (4.55)
Mandible in T.L. (upper jaw-beak)	73.12-58.33 (65.28)	30.67-70.83 (50.13)	11.40-32.50 (31.94)	4.1-4.6 (4.35)
Mandible in H.L.	11.66-14.0 (12.88)	7.50-16.67 (11.97)	2.08-6.0 (3.84)	0.9-0.86 (0.88)
Eye in H. L.	1.94-2.19 (2.06)	2.31-3.88 (2.99)	2.6-2.81 (2.69)	3.3-3.25 (3.27)
Eye in snout	0.38-0.39 (0.36)	0.31-0.86 (0.63)	0.39-0.56 (0.48)	1.0-1.0 (1.0)
Eye in postorbital	1.08-1.55 (1.31)	1.31-1.53 (1.43)	1.25-1.3 (1.27)	1.3-1.5 (1.4)
Snout in H. L.	5.0-5.7 (5.35)	3.08-8.6 (5.21)	5.0-6.85 (5.68)	3.3-3.25 (3.27)
Interorbital in H. L.	7.0-7.6 (7.35)	1.93-4.27 (3.12)	2.6-3.9 (3.2)	3.3-3.25 (3.27)
Interorbital in postorbital	3.73-3.8 (3.76)	0.78-1.82 (1.35)	1.25-8.0 (4.62)	1.3-1.5 (1.4)
Pectoral in S. L.	10.0-19.34 (14.67)	6.72-11.08 (8.19)	6.67-8.33 (7.7)	6.5-5.8 (6.15)
Pectoral in H. L.	2.33-4.96 (3.64)	1.3-2.14 (1.77)	1.3-1.84 (1.54)	1.7-1.3 (1.5)

Note : T.L. total length from tip of upper jaw to caudal fin, S.L. standard length from tip of upper jaw to the base of caudal fin, H.L. head length from tip of upper jaw to the branchial opening N. the number of specimens Numbers in parenthesis are the average numbers.

The arrangement of pigments and number of myomeres same as before; 32 melanophores marked along the mid-lateral line, larger ones, nearly 0.12 X 0.04 mm along the posterior part of the body.

Gill openings wide, gill membranes not united with isthmus. Alizarine Red preparations revealed the magnitude of ossification, in lower jaw greater than in upper jaw; hypurals incompletely ossified. Branchiostegals 10, the last two unossified at this stage. Vertebrae 47.

Larva: 13-18 mm in total length (Fig.1, C)

The lower jaw more prominently elongated than upper jaw, 0.3 mm long appeared in 14.8 mm larva and lies nearly equidistant between the base of caudal fin and eye; pelvic rays not distinguishable. The lower lobe of caudal slightly increased.

Juvenile: 45-69 mm in total length (Fig.1, D)

A row of more than 64 melanophores along each side of the mid-dorsal line from behind the head to the origin of dorsal fin, myomeres indistinct. The lower jaw considerably elongated with its tip coral red, no teeth on the beak. The caudal distinctly forked, the lower lobe considerably increased. Gill arch 6.14 mm long in a 45 mm long juvenile with 25 long filamentous gill rakers.

The triangular upper jaw formed by the intermaxillaries rather bluntly pointed at the apex and broader at the base than its length. The margin of the mandible diverging little until the posterior end was reached. The nasal width 3.0 in eye, and nasal barbel nearly 0.3 mm long in a 45 mm specimen. The cycloid scales were first marked in a 22 mm specimen in the antero-dorsal position behind head. By 45 mm the scales covered the whole body but not marked on the upper jaw; the lateral scales numbered 50-53, an accurate counting was difficult because scales were missing from the sides. They measured 2.0 X 1.5 mm. The dorsal and anal fins low, highest anteriorly with ray 2-3 longest,

In fresh condition the tip of the beak was coral-red, the chin and throat silvery, and a silvery band ran along each side of the body. In preserved

specimens the upper surface of the body slightly darker, the upper surface of the head in life was blue and green varying in brilliance. O₁ each side of the body was a dark band, silvery in life, which was narrow anteriorly but became broadest between dorsal and anal fins. The lower surface of the mandible was finely pigmented with black chromatophores fading posteriorly so that both chin and throat was largely colourless. The dorsal and caudal fins marked with black punctuations, the other fins were mostly pale.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The morphological characters mainly the lower jaw being produced into a beak signify that the larvae and juveniles belong to the Hemirhamphidae and not to the Belonidae.

Of the three species of halfbeaks i.e. *H. marginatus* (Forsk.), *H. gaimardi* and *H. georgii* recorded from Arabian Gulf (Mahdi & George 1969, Kuronuma and Abe 1971), only *H. georgii* was reported from Shatt-Al-Arab (Mahdi 1962). Our specimens (i.e. juveniles) possess the triangular upper jaw broader than long, the dorsal and anal fins equal and originate at the same level, pectoral shorter than head and thus differ from *H. georgii* in which the upper jaw is longer than broad, the anal fins originate 3-4 rays behind dorsal and are unequal, and pectorals not as long as head.

Our specimens, both larvae and juveniles have 16 haemal vertebrae like *H. marginatus* while *H. contori* (Blk.), *H. quoyi* and *H. dussumieri* (Cuv. Val.) possess more than 17 (Talwar 1967). The ventrals arose much nearer the caudal than to the pectoral in *H. far*, *H. georgii*, *H. contori* and *H. marginatus*, while in *H. xanthopterus* and *H. gaimardi* the ventrals arose about half-way between the base of the caudal and the eye (Day 1889) (Table 2).

Table 2.

Position of pelvic fin in relation to caudal base, eye and pectoral fins of *Hemirhamphus* sp. based on descriptions and figures after Gunther (1889), Weber and De Beaufort (1922) and Mahdi (1971)

	H. marginatus	H. gaimardi	H. far contori	H. georgii	H. xanth- opterus	H. Our specim- en	
<u>Pelvic-Caudal</u> Pelvic-gill	0.78	1.22	0.67	0.63	0.77	1.09	1.29
<u>Pelvic-caudal</u> Pelvic-eye	0.64	1.04	0.57	0.54	0.66	0.84	1.04
<u>Pelvic-caudal</u> Pelvic-pectoral	0.74	1.24	0.71	0.65	0.80	1.14	1.05

The red tipped beak of *H. xanthopterus* could make it easily distinguishable from *H. gaimardi* in which it is only pigmented without any colouration. Moreover, the head is 6 in standard length (Mahdi 1971) and the caudal emarginate (Weber & De Beaufort 1922) in *H. gaimardi*, while in our specimens of *H. xanthopterus* the head is 3.9-5.2 (table 1) and the caudal is forked, the lower lobe prominently longer.

From the foregoing discussion it is clear that the larvae and juveniles belong to *H. xanthopterus*. This species has not been reported before from Iraqi waters and hence forms a new record.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are deeply indebted to Dr. Khalaf Al-Robaac, Director of Basrah University Natural History Museum for laboratory facilities. We thank Prof. H. Tsukahara, Prof. Y. Itazawa and D.S. Kimura of Fisheries laboratory, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan for their help during the preparation of the paper.

SUMMARY

The larvae and juveniles of *Hemirhamphus xanthopterus* (Val.) measuring 5.8-69 mm, collected from Shatt-Al-Arab near Chibashi Creek between May 15 and August 30, 1974 are described and figured. This species has not been recorded earlier from Iraqi waters and hence forms a new record.

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الملخص
جمعت صغار سمك القنبرور بحجم ٥,٨ - ٦٩ ملم. من شط العرب في منطقة نهر الكبامي في الفترة الواقعة بين مايس وآب من سنة ١٩٧٤. وقد اعطيت الأوصاف والصور كاملة يتم تسجيل هذا النوع لأول مرة في هذه المنطقة.

MAEDLERISPHAERA ARABICA A NEW SPECIES OF CHAROPHYTA
FROM UPPER CRETACEOUS OF SOUTHEASTERN IRAQ
SONIA S. DARMOIAN & SOLAK A. DARMOIAN

Iraq National Oil Co ., Basrah

INTRODUCTION

The present work is a complementary part of an effort being carried out by the authors to correlate the Mesozoic deposits of Southern Iraq.

Samples containing charophytes were obtained from deep well cuttings deposited at the Basrah Petroleum Company , Zubair. The well preserved gyrogonites presented in this study were obtained from the BPC well Zubair no. 8. The treatment of the samples was carried out by the junior author during his Ph.D. researches (1967-1971) at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, England. Additional examination of samples from several deep well cuttings, drilled by the Basrah Petroleum Company and Iraq National Oil Company (INOC) in southern Iraq, was carried out by the senior author (1974-1975) who also participated in identifying the fossil charophytes and preparing the systematic paleontology. The paleontological aspects for microbiostratigraphic correlations of the non-marine deposits is rather successfully used in many European and American countries . However, such a type of research is almost new for Iraq and therefore our work has been beset with difficulties such as the absence of type materials, the absence of standard non-marine sections and literature. The gyrogonite species cited herein were from two closely spaced samples, Zb 7415 and Zb 7405 from the BPC/Zb 8 . Though sample Zb 7405 contains , associated with charophytes, rare specimens of genus *Nezzatinella* Darmoian (in preparation) which is the index fossil of the Miliolidae Limestone Bed, Shat Al Arab Formation in the Ratawi and Luhais subsurface sections , it is here considered as still uncertain belonging. Detailed stratigraphic descri-

ption of the Miliolidae Limestone Bed may be found in Darmoian 1974. we are most grateful to Drs, J. Karczewska and M .Ziembinska - Tworzzydlo of the Warsaw University , Poland for checking the material. However ,the views given in this paper are those of the authors and they are alone responsible. We are also thankful to Mr. Setrak M . Vartanian of the Iraq National Oil Company for his kindly preparing the drawings .

SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

The terminology and abbreviations employed here are the same as in Karczewska and Ziembinska- Towrzydlo (1969 , 1972) .The slides containing the holotype , paratypes and not illustrated specimens are in the personal collection of the authors.

Genus MAEDLERISPHAERA Horn Af Rantzien , 1959
Maedlerisphacra arabica n. sp. Figures 1 to 4

Material :

Fifteen well preserved specimens ,.

Holotype :

No . Zb / Char / 7405 /3 ; drilled depth of 7405 ft .

Paratypes

No. Zb/Char/7405/1-2,4 ; drilled depth of 7405 ft.

Cent .Labs.	LPA	LED	ISI	AND	ANI	NC	Width conv at EA in mm
Zb/Char/7405 in mm	in mm	in mm		in mm			
1	0.44	0.37	118	0.20	46	7	0.063
2	0.40	0.34	118	0.20	50	8	0.056
3	0.44	0.36	122	0.20	46	8	0.056
4	0.44	0.36	122	0.22	50	7	0.060
5	0.44	0.36	122	0.20	46	7	0.052
6	0.40	0.36	111	0.21	50	8	0.060
7	0.40	0.34	117	0.17	42	7	0.050

Note :

LPA = Length of the polar axis ,LED =Largest equatorial diameter, ISI Isopolarity index, AND = Distance from the apical pole to the LED as calculated along the polar axis ,ANI = Anisopolarity index, NC= Number of convolutions in the lateral view , EA = Equatorial axis .

Description

Gyrogonites middle- sized ,prolate spheroidal to subprolate (ISI-111-122) and ellipsoidal (ANI 42-50) ; apically widely and basally narrowly rounded (apical pole occasionally crushed),7-8 slightly convex or flat convolutions with narrow intercellular furrows visible in lateral view ; spirals narrowed in the apical periphery ;apical poles with low apical rosette and the spirals contact at its centre ; basal poles with small pentagonal opening surrounded by slightly widened ends of the spirals .

Remarks

Maedlerisphaera arabica n. sp. shows similarity to immature gyrogonites of *Chara ulmensis* Straub 1952, described as *Maedlerisphaera ulmensis* Straub 1952),n. comb. by Hanning af Rantzien (1959); and gyrogonites of *Maedlerisphaera pseudoulmensis* Karczewska and Zeimbinska . Two- rzydlo, 1972. However, it differs from the first in smaller dimensions and lesser number of convolutions, and from the second it differs in lesser number of convolutions, wider convolutions at the equatorial axis and in the shape of summits and bases.

Occurrence

The age of the type sample (Zb7405) is not known in exactness yet. It was found associated with rare *Nezzazatinella* Darmoian (op. cit.) and (caved) marine planktonic microfossils. The interval above this horizon (drilled depths 7400-7385) contains abundant Miliolidae, rare planktonic micro fauna and two specimens of *Praeglobotruncana helvetica* (Bolli).This interval is followed by beds which are proved to be of Coniacian age (Darmoian, 1972, 1974). The horizon which contains the sample Zb7415 is in the Mish-

rif Formation (BPC, Internal Reports). According to latest informations, the upper part of the Mishrif Formation is of Lower Turonian age (L. Brun, 1970, ELF unpub. report, 03-D-31, n.0/410 R). It is therefore concluded that the age of *Maedlerishaera arabica* is older than Coniacian and younger than the Lower Turonian. The following additional gyrogonites were identified in this study; *Aclistochara bransoni* Peck, *A. cylindrica* Peck, *A. jonesi* Peck, *A. sp. aff. A. obovata* Peck, *Mesochara sp. aff. M. mongolica* Karezewska and Ziembinska-Towrzydło, *Maedlerisphaera sp. aff. M. pseudoulmensis* Karezewska and Ziembinska-Towrzydło, *Sphaerochara sp.*, and *Tectochara sp.*

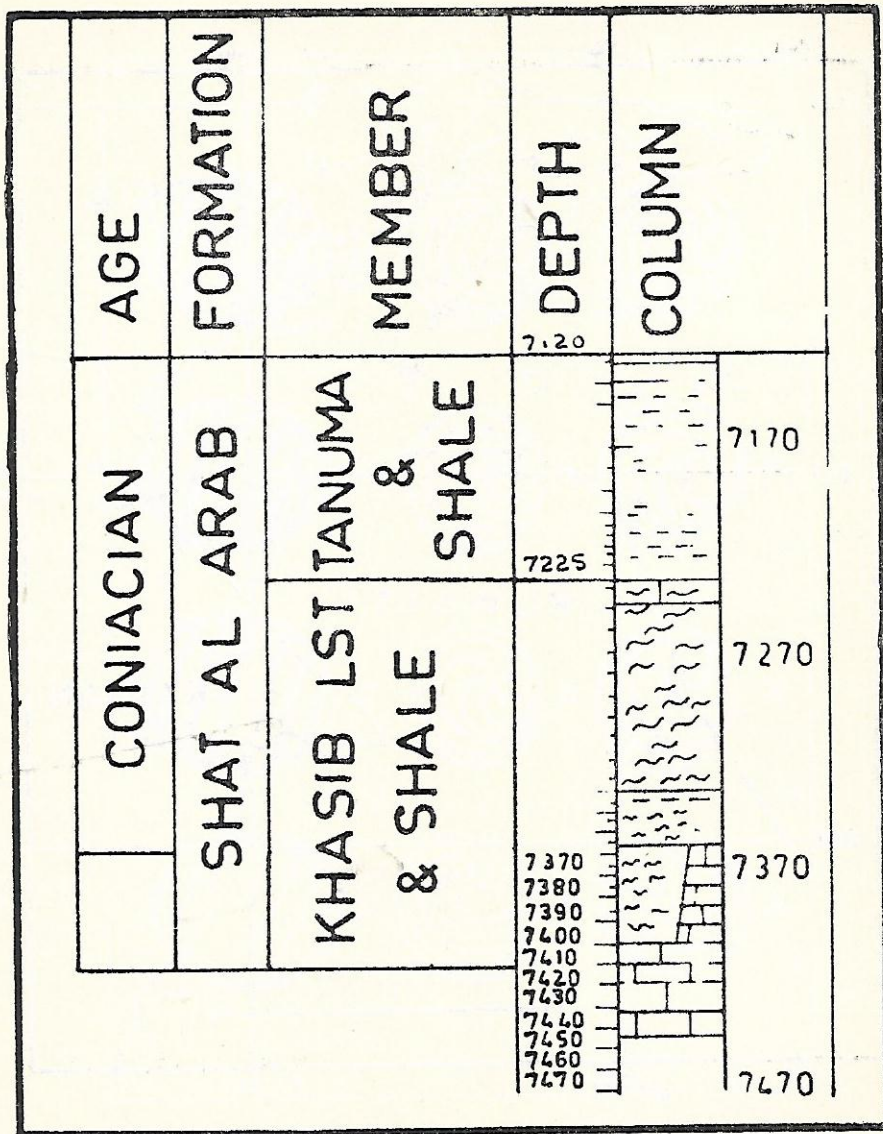
SUMMARY

Maedlerisphaera arabica, a new fossil species of Charophyta from the subsurface Upper Cretaceous (pre-Coniacian) rocks of southeastern Iraq is described.

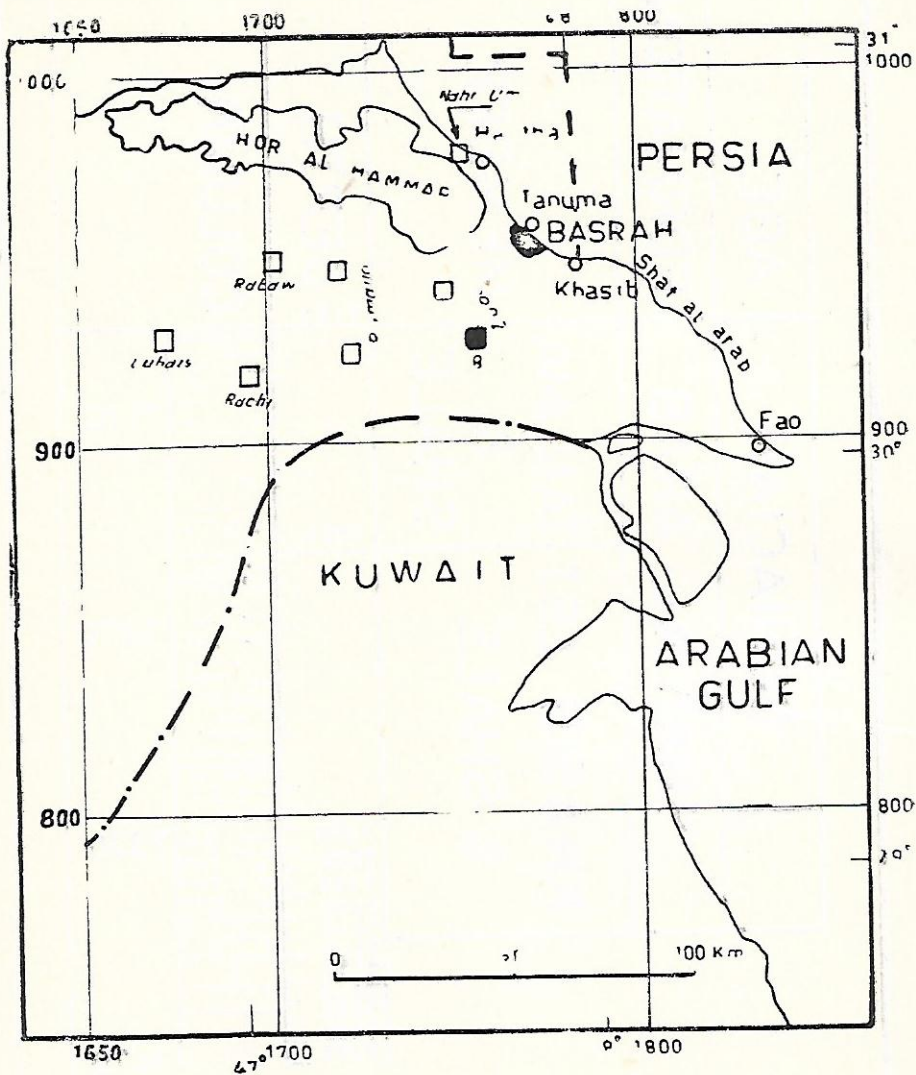
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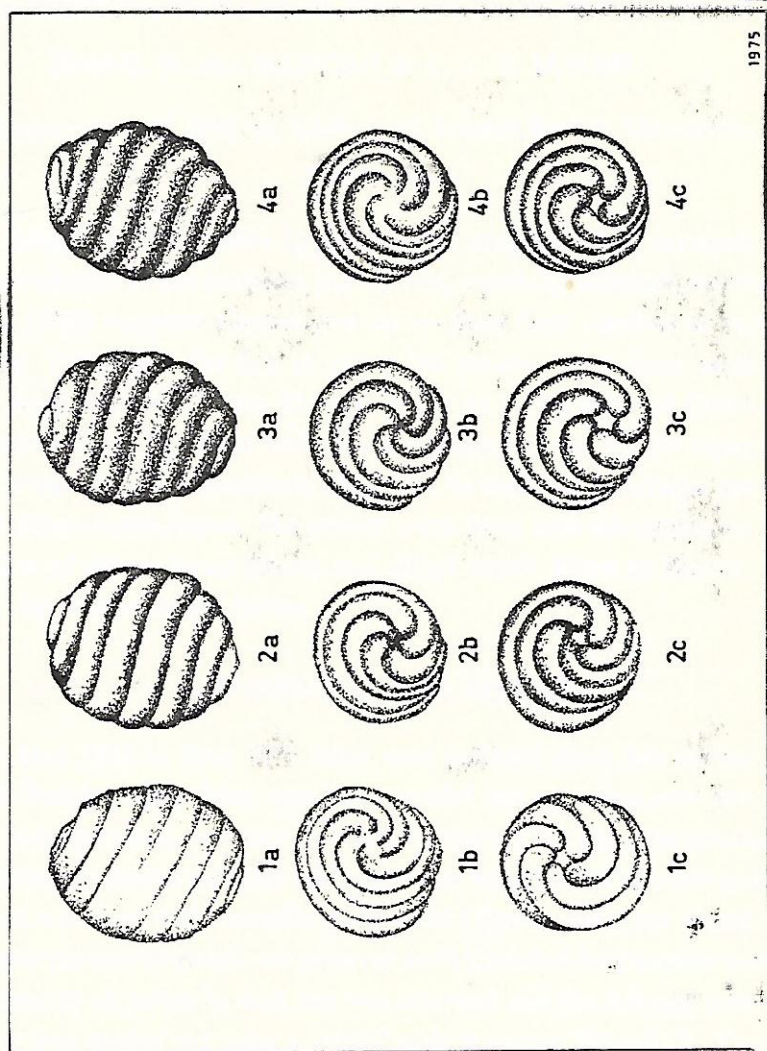
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TEXT-FIGURE 1



LOCALITY MAP



TEXT - FIGURE 2

SURVEY ON NEMATODE INFECTION OF IRAQI FISHES

ISMAIL A. AL-HADITHI & L. A. J. JAWAD

Department of Biology, College of Science, Basrah University,
Basrah, Iraq

The fishes from the families Cyprinidae and Mugilidae were surveyed for fish-nematodes in the southern part of Iraq especially in Basrah marshes. Khalil (1969) reported *Contracaenum* larvae from *Lates niloticus* in Sudan. Herzog (1969) was the first to report the presence of various parasites from Iraqi freshwater fishes. Shamsuddin *et al.* (1971) reported *Contracaenum* larvae from *Mugil abu* and *Silurus triostegus* in the middle region of Iraq. It was therefore considered important to study the nematode parasites of fishes in this region. The present work deals with the studies on the infection of *Aspius vorax* Heckel and *Mugil hishni* Misra in Basrah water by *Contracaenum* larvae.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

From May 1972 to June 1973 fishes were collected from fish market in Basrah. Weights of the fishes were first recorded and the scales were removed from each specimen, and kept in a small envelopes for age determination. The larval nematodes collected from the fishes were divided into two groups, the first was fixed with formalin-acetic acid (Thorne 1961) for identification, and the second group was preserved in 70% alcohol for parasites count. The number of larvae in each fish was recorded and the fish-age determination was carried out using a special scale projector (Basrah 73, Yassin, personal communication).

The calculations were made and the relation of age-weight, age-infection, and weight-infection were determined. At test was used in analysing the data. The larval nematodes was identified as *Contracaecum* sp. by L.F. Khalil of the Commonwealth Institute of Helminthology. The *Contracaecum* larvae were found attached to the external surface of the alimentary canal and the mesenteries.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the age-weight, age-infection, and weight-infection analyses made on *A. vorax* and *M. hishni*, 50 specimens each, are presented below.

Age :

Fishes were divided into four age groups, namely, 0, 1, 2, and 3 representing 0, 1, 2, and 3 years old respectively (0=less than 1 year). Weight-infection relationship was studied for each age group.

Tables 1 and 2 present the relation between age groups and weight for *A. vorax* and *M. hishni*, respectively. Table 1 shows that *A. vorax* infection incidence increased with the length of fish (age) and highly significant differences were found at age 2 and 3 ($P=0.001$). It is the same for *M. hishni* (Table 2, $P_2=0.05$), the infection incidence increases up to the age of 2, but then it drops. This decrease of infection incidence with the increase of fish length may be due to the development of resistance with aging, as suggested by Khalil (1969), or owing to the death of already infected fishes in group 2 and the resultant survival of non-infected fishes. Figures 1 and 2 show weight, age, and infection incidence relationships for *A. vorax* and *M. hishni* respectively.

Weight:

Fishes of both species were grouped according to their weight and the weight-infection relationships were determined for each group. Tables 3 and 4 show the weight-infection relationship for *A. vorax* and *M. hishni*

respectively. In *A. vorax*, the infection increased with the weight up to the group weighting 300–400 g. The significant differences were found to be ($P=0.001$). Regarding *M. hishni*, the infection increased rapidly with weight groups until it reached the second group weighing 20–30g and then decreased gradually. However, there was no significant difference.

Figure 3 shows the weight-infection relationship within the weight groups.

Table 1.

A. vorax : Age-Infection relationship.

Age group	Frequency	Mean No. of Nematodes
0	1	1.0
1	3	10.6
11	43	11.1
111	3	21.0

Table 2

M. hishni: Age-Infection relationship

Age group	Frequency	Mean No. of Nematodes
0	1	1.0
1	28	5.1
11	14	8.0
111	6	4.4

Table 3

A. vorax: Weight-Infection relationship

Group	weight (gram)	Frequency	Mean No. of Nematodes
1	200–300	14	7.7
11	300–400	21	15.9
111	over 400	14	7.9

Table 4
M. hishni: Weight-Infection relationship

Group	Weight (gram)	Frequency	Mean No. of Nematodes
1	10-20	8	3.0
11	20-30	11	10.1
111	30-40	32	4.4
IV	over 40	4	3.0

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Dr. L.F. Khalil of the Commonwealth Institute of Helminthology for his help in the identification of the Nematode, and Mr.K.Yassin of the Basrah University for letting us using his scale projector. We are indebted to the University of Basrah for a financial support.

SUMMARY

A. vorax and *M. hishni* were surveyed for the infection with *Contracaecum* sp. larvae, in Basrah waters.

It was found that the infection increased with the age of the fish until second year in both *A. vorax* and *M. hishni* and then dropped. While in case of the weight the infection increased between 300 and 400 g in *A. vorax* and 20-30 g in *M. hishni* and then decreased.

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الخلاصة

يتضمن هذا البحث مسح لاصابة اسماك الخشني والشلج ببرقات الديدان الخيطية المعروفة باسم *Contracaecum* sp. في مياه شط العرب والأهوار المجاورة لمحافظة البصرة . وقد وجد بان الاصابة بالديدان تزداد بازدياد عمر السمكة حتى السنة الثانية ثم تقل بعد ذلك بالنسبة لاسماك الخشني والشلج .

وكذلك وجد بأن الاصابة تزداد كلما ازداد وزن السمكة حتى يصل ما بين ٣٠٠-٤٠٠ غرام حيث يكون اعلى نسبة من الاصابة بالنسبة لسمكة الشلج ثم يقل بعد ذلك . أما بالنسبة لسمكة الخشني فإن الاصابة تزداد كلما ازداد وزن السمكة حتى يصل ما بين ٢٠-٣٠ غرام حيث يكون أعلى نسبة من الاصابة ثم يقل بعد ذلك .

Fig. 1. Weight, age and infection incidence relationships of *Aspius vorax*

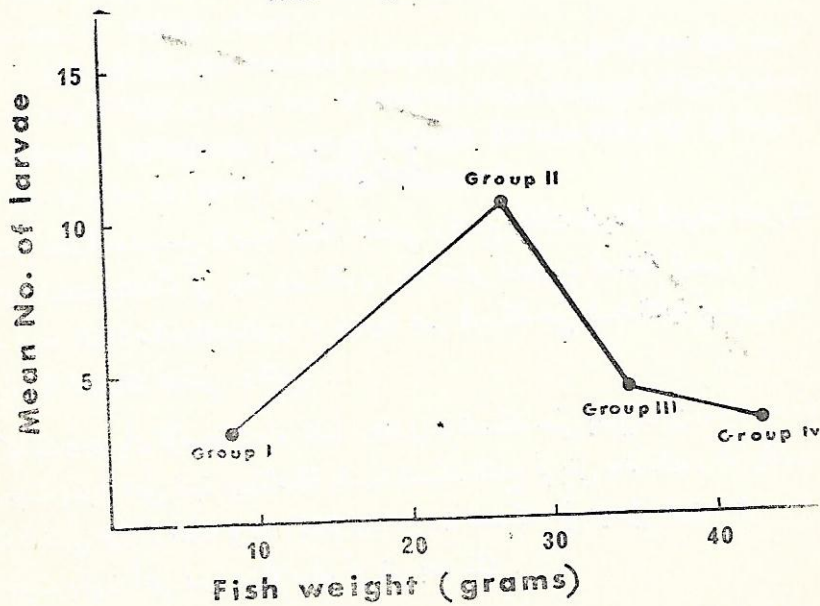
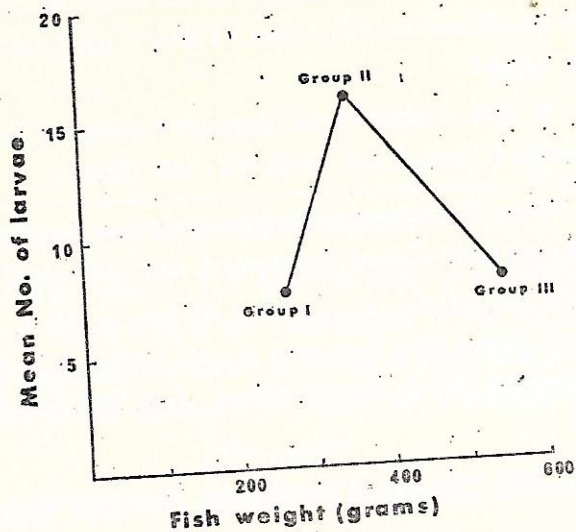


Fig. 2. Weight, age and infection incidence relationships of *Mugil hishni*.

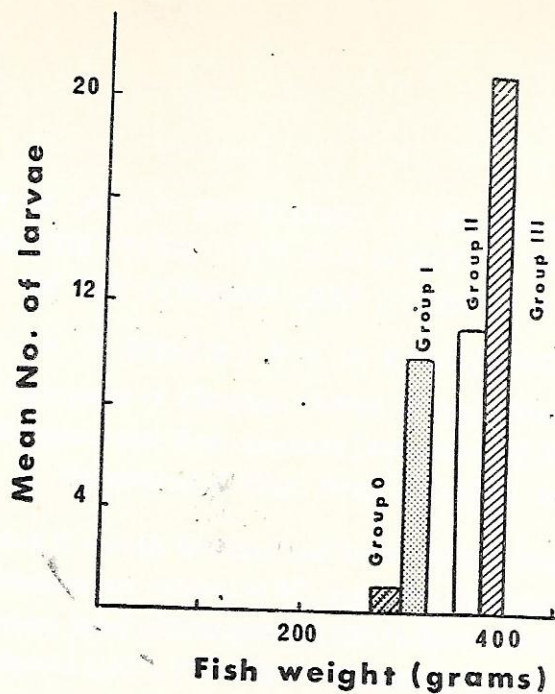


Fig.3. Weight-infection relationships within the weight groups of *Aspius vorax*

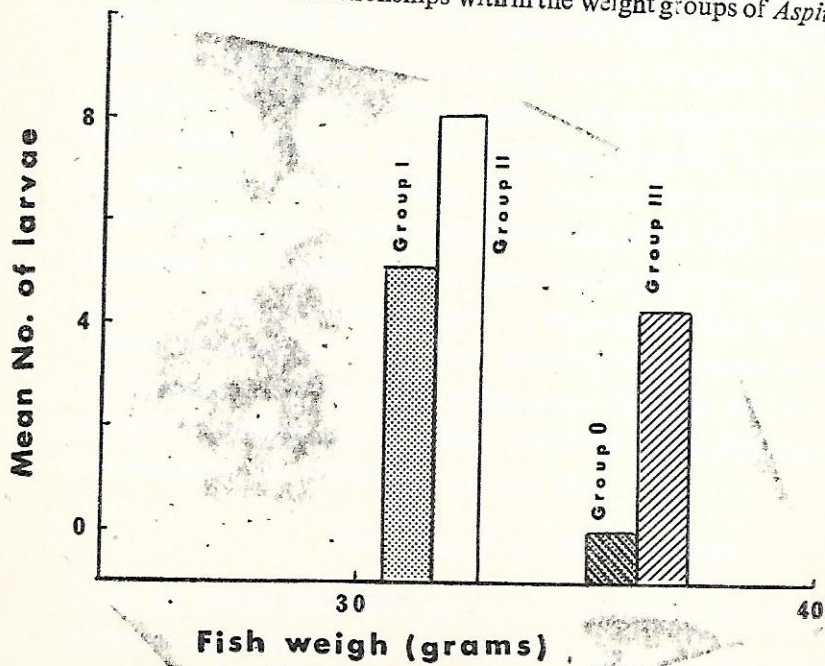


Fig.4. Weight-infection relationships within the weight groups of *Mugil hishni*.

EFFECT OF CERTAIN FERTILIZERS, FEEDS AND COBALT CHLORIDE ON THE PRODUCTION AND SURVIVAL OF YOUNG ONES OF THE COMMON CARP *CYPRINUS CARPIO* L.

K. P. SHARMA & S. D. KULSHRESHTHA

Department of Fisheries, College of Agriculture, Basrah
University and Post-graduate Department of Zoology,
Government College, Kota, Rajasthan, India.

Application of suitable fertilizers and feeds is of vital importance in enhancing production and survival of fish in ponds. Some important works in this regard are those of Schaeperclaus (1933), Hora (1943), Alikunhi *et al.* (1955), Alikunhi (1957), Das and Krishnamurthy (1961), Hora and Pillay (1962), Report of the Fish Seed Committee Government of India (Anon 1966), Lakshmanan *et al.* (1968), Rabanal (1968), Swingle (1968), Sen (1972) and Ghosh (1972) have stressed the role of cobalt in augmenting production and survival of fish. A perusal of the literature reveals that a large number of authors have devoted their attention to the culture of fry and fingerlings in field conditions with emphasis on nursery management. In spite of this the per hectare (ha) production of the Table-sized fish is alarmingly low in India. We have observed that common carp (*Cyprinus carpio* L.) although breeds in ponds in the usual course, its growth and survival remained poor. Very heavy mortality was observed in the spawn and fry stages resulting in low production. Therefore, the authors have attempted to try out certain fertilizers and feeds for enhancing production and survival of the common carp young ones.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Under the present study four-day old mixed hatchlings of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio communis* L. and *Cyprinus carpio specularis* L.) of similar

parentage were reared for 46 days at the Kaithoon Fish Farm, Kota, Rajasthan, India in eight nursery ponds each with an area of 0.028 ha with almost identical conditions initially.

For convenience in study and comparison the nursery ponds were divided into four groups: Group I included pond nos. 1 and 2; II, 3 and 4; III, 5 and 6 and IV, 7 and 8.

Group I was fertilized with ammonium sulphate while those of groups II and III with deep litter fertilizer from poultry a week ahead of the introduction of common carp hatchlings. The young ones in all the nursery ponds were fed daily on a mixture of rice bran and ground nut oil cake in the ratio of 1:1 by weight. Ponds of group II and IV were also provided with cobalt chloride daily (Table 1).

Table 1

Average quantity of feed, fertilizers and cobalt chloride supplied in each group in kg

Group	Rice bran and ground nut oil cake	Cobalt chloride	Ammonium sulphate	Deep litter fertilizer
I	48.0	nil	2.0	nil
II	32.0	0.256	nil	500
III	40.0	nil	nil	500
IV	50.0	0.256	nil	nil

The feed in ponds was put in plastic tubs about one foot deep below the level of water at suitable places. Fresh ration was supplied only when the previous quantity was found to be consumed. The cobalt chloride was first made into solution with water and sprinkled in the various ponds. Records of air, water temperatures and oxygen contents were kept weekly.

RESULTS

In nursery ponds, highest production by weight was achieved in group III (c. 535 kg/ha), followed by group II (c. 362 kg/ha). Production in group IV came next (c. 258 kg/ha) closely followed by group I (c. 248 kg/ha) as given in Table 2.

Table 2

Number of hatchlings stocked, percentage survival and rate of production of common carp

Group	Pond	Hatchling stocked	Total no. harvested	Survival %	Production (kg)		
					Total production per ha.	Production per ha.	Average production per ha.
I	1	12000	2000	16.60	6.96	248.50	248
	2	12000	1945	16.20	6.90	247.90	
II	3	12000	2090	17.40	10.00	357.14	362
	4	12000	2150	17.90	10.30	367.80	
III	5	12000	1404	11.70	15.02	536.40	535
	6	12000	1395	11.62	14.92	532.80	
IV	7	12000	1906	15.88	7.24	258.5	258
	8	12000	1900	15.84	7.21	257.5	

The lowest percentage of survival (11.6) has accompanied with the highest production (in group III). The data given in Table II clearly indicate a steady fall in the survival rate with the increase in production rate, though the same does not hold true for group II where survival percentage was 17.6.

DISCUSSION

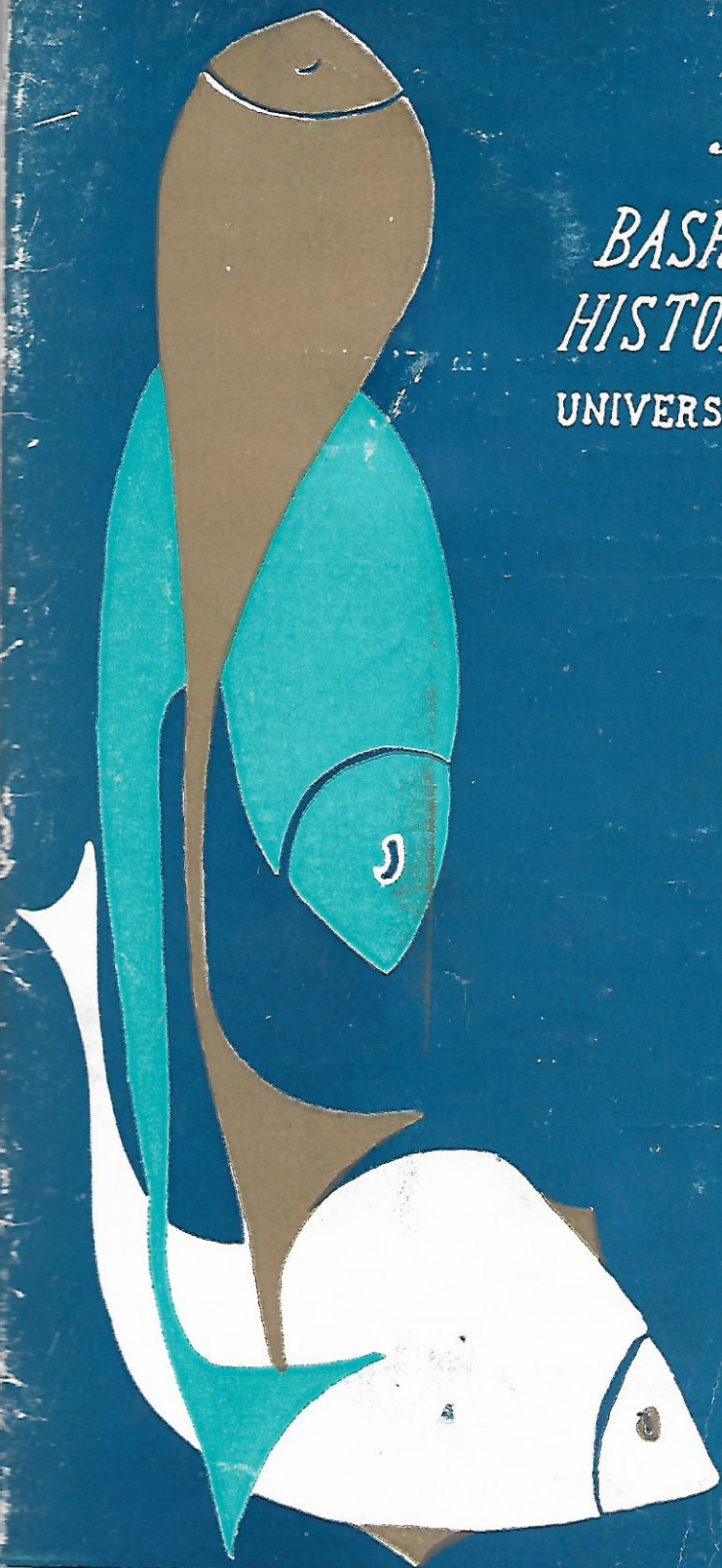
It is reported that cobalt chloride is a growth-promoting substance and is used as an additive to the feed of developing fry. It raised the survival rate also to a large extent. Sen (1972) reported very satisfactory results regarding survival and growth of Indian major carp fry by the use of cobalt chloride. Ghosh (1972) also found that the growth and survival rates of *Mugil parsia* increased with cobalt chloride. Since both these reports were in abstract form further details could not be ascertained.

However in our experiments, although, the total production per ha was quite encouraging the survival percentage remained very poor. This was rather curious in view of the role of cobalt chloride in enhancing survival as advocated by certain workers (*op. cit.*). However, poor survival was due to a variety of reasons. Cannibalism was observed particularly in the younger stages of common carp. This phenomenon was induced as a result of the heterogenous growth of the developing young ones. Wide fluctuations in temperature were also largely responsible for mass mortality.

Group III showed the highest production. This is obviously due to the fact that deep litter fertilizer was employed in the initial preparation of these ponds. This fertilizer is a by-product from poultry and is one of the most valuable organic fertilizers available (McArdle and Panda 1965, Anon 1961). Nandy *et al.* (1972) reported a sustained growth of zooplankters by the application of poultry droppings along with Mahua (*Madhuca latifolia*) oil cake, cowdung and urea in the ratio of 1 :6:3 which at 1000 ppm proved useful.

When group II was compared with group III we found that in both of them an equal amount of deep litter fertilizer was added. But in addition to this,

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