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**SOME ASPECTS OF FARM-REARING OF POST-LARVAE AND  
FRY OF COMMONLY CULTURED CARPS (PISCES:  
CYPRINIDAE), AND DEVELOPMENT OF METHODOLOGY  
SUITABLE FOR REARING OF POST-LARVAE AND FRY BY  
RURAL COMMUNITIES OF SRI LANKA**

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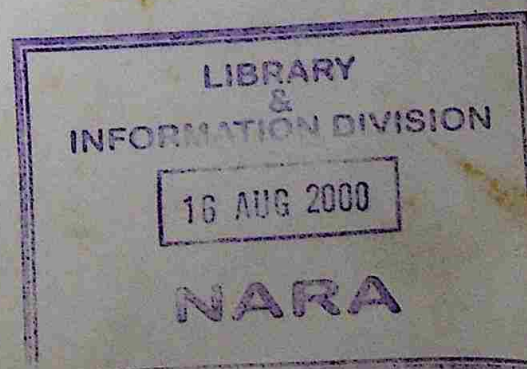
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
TITLE PAGE	1
DECLARATION	11
ABSTRACT	111
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	V
TABLE OF CONTENTS	VI
LIST OF TABLES	IX
LIST OF FIGURES	XI
LIST OF PLATES	XIII
<b>CHAPTER 1      General Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.Importance of fish as a source of animal protein to people of developing countries, especially that of rural sector.....	1
2.The two major sources of fish - marine and freshwater (including aquaculture).....	2
3.Sri Lankan situation and why freshwater fishes are important.....	3
4.Freshwater fishery resources.....	8
5.Species used for culture fishery and pond aquaculture.....	9
6. Importance of seed sources.....	11
7.Why development of community based seed sources are important for Sri Lanka.....	12
8.Aim of the study.....	13

<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	<b>Materials and Methods-General</b>	<b>14</b>
	Description and arrangement of experimental tanks....	16
	Preparation of tanks.....	16
	Measurement of physico-chemical parameters.....	20
	Sampling and length/weight measurements.....	20
	Analyses of data.....	21
	Method of feeding of post-larvae and fry.....	21
	Plankton studies.....	23
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	<b>Effect of organic manure on growth and survival of larvae of bighead carp, <i>Aristichthys nobilis</i></b>	<b>26</b>
	Introduction.....	26
	Materials and Method.....	28
	Results.....	29
	Discussion.....	35
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	<b>Effect of stocking density on the growth and survival of fry of common carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)</b>	<b>39</b>
	Introduction.....	39
	Materials and Method.....	39
	Results.....	40
	Discussion.....	45

<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	<b>Effect of stocking density on the growth and survival of post-larvae of <i>Aristichthys nobilis</i>, <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>, <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> and <i>Labeo rohita</i></b>	<b>46</b>
	Introduction.....	46
	Materials and Method .....	47
	Results (a) Bighead carp and grass carp.....	48
	(b)Rohu and common carp.....	50
	Discussion.....	54
<b>CHAPTER 6</b>	<b>Effect of the supplementary feed on the growth and survival of post-larvae of common carp and rohu reared in cement tanks</b>	<b>58</b>
	Introduction.....	58
	Materials and Methods .....	60
	Results.....	61
	Discussion.....	66
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>Effect of cowdung on natural food production for the rearing of post-larvae</b>	<b>70</b>
	Introduction.....	70
	Materials and Methods.....	72
	Results.....	72
	Discussion.....	79
<b>CHAPTER 8</b>	<b>General Discussion.....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b>		<b>110</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Appendix I.....	<b>126</b>

<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>Page</b>	
Table 1.1	The extent and the fish species to be stocked in various water bodies.....	04
Table 1.2	Aquaculture and Inland fish production target (MT).....	06
Table 1.3	Fish introductions into Sri Lanka (from De Silva, 1988).....	10
Table 2.1	Experiments that were carried out in Udawalawe and Ginigathena Fisheries Stations.....	15
Table 2.2	Preparation of tanks for stocking post-larvae (PL)...	19
Table 2.3	Method of feeding of post-larvae and fry in this trials	21
Table 2.4	The proximate composition(%) of fish feeds used....	22
Table 3.1	Final(after 34 days) mean length, Specific growth and percentage survival of bighead carp PL reared under different treatments.....	29
Table 3.2	Temperature (Morning & Evening), dissolved oxygen concentration (DO) and pH in PL rearing tanks under different manure treatment.....	31
Table 3.3	Secchi disc depth, volume of zooplankton and volume of phytoplankton in PL rearing tanks under different manure treatments.....	31
Table 4.1	Physico-chemical parameters, dissolved oxygen concentrations, pH and temperature (am & pm) ( $\pm$ sd) in fry rearing tanks concentrations, pH and temperature (am & pm) ( $\pm$ sd) in fry rearing tanks under different stocking densities (SD).....	42
Table 4.2	Mean length on day 14, final mean length, specific growth rate in length on day 14 and on final day, and percentage survival of <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> fry at different stocking densities (SD).....	43



Table 4.3	Variation of volume of phytoplankton, volume of zooplankton and Secchi disc depth variation ( $\pm$ sd) within <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> fry rearing.....	45
Table 5.1	Dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH and secchi disc depth in bighead carp PL and grass carp PL rearing tanks at different stocking densities(SD).....	49
Table 5.2	Final mean survival of <i>Aristichthys nobilis</i> PL and <i>Ctenopharyngodon</i> survival of <i>Aristichthys nobilis</i> PL and <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> PL reared under different stocking density regimes and different period of times.....	49
Table 5.3	Physico-chemical parameters Temperature, pH and Secchi disc depth in <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> PL and <i>Labeo rohita</i> PL rearing tanks at different stocking densities...	50
Table 5.4	Percentage survival ( $\pm$ sd) of <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> PL and <i>Labeo rohita</i> PL reared in different stocking densities...	53
Table 5.5	Mean length variation ( $\pm$ sd) of <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> PL and <i>Labeo rohita</i> PL reared in different stocking densities...	53
Table 5.6	Specific growth rate in length of <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> PL and <i>Labeo rohita</i> PL reared in different stocking densities.....	54
Table 6.1	Physico-chemical parameters dissolved oxygen,(DO) pH and secchi disc depth in <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> PL and <i>Labeo rohita</i> PL rearing tanks under different feeding regimes.....	62
Table 6.2	Percentage survival of <i>Labeo rohita</i> PL and <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> PL under different feeding regimes.....	63
Table 6.3	Intermediate mean lengths and final mean length ( $\pm$ sd) of <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> and <i>Labeo rohita</i> fry under different feeding regimes.....	64

Table 6.4	Specific growth rate in length on day 7, 14, 21 and final day of <i>Labeo rohita</i> and <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> fry under different feeding treatments.....	66
Table 7.1	Appearance of plankton species in the fertilized tanks...	74
Table 7.2	Physico-chemical parameters, dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH and secchi disc depth in tanks manured with cowdung for natural food culture.....	79
Table 7.3	Proximate analyses of organisms serving as food for pond fishes.....	82
Table 8.1	Comparison of the method used in the present study with the methods of Indrasena & Ellepola (1964) Ellepola & Fernando (1966) and Hora & Pillay (1962)	89

<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>Page</b>
Fig.1.1	World fish production (marine and inland)..... 07
Fig.1.2	Inland fish production in Sri Lanka during the period 1977 to 1996..... 07
Fig.2.1	The set up of the cement tanks in Udawalawe Fisheries Station..... 17
Fig.2.2	The set up of the cement tanks in Ginigathena Fisheries Station..... 18
Fig.2.3	Selection of squares for counting plankton density under stereo-microscope..... 25
Fig.3.1	Mean length and weight of <i>Aristichthys nobilis</i> post- larvae reared under different organic manure regimes... 28
Fig.3.2	Dissolved oxygen levels in the control tank and these that were treated with chicken manure and cowdung... 30
Fig.3.3	Temperature and dissolved oxygen concentration in tanks under different organic manure regimes..... 32
Fig.3.4	Changes of volume of phytoplankton and zooplankton and the Secchi disc depth of the control tank and those treated with cowdung and chicken manure..... 33
Fig.4.1	Variation of temperature, dissolved oxygen concentration and pH with time under different stocking densities..... 41
Fig.4.2	Changes of the volume of phytoplankton, zooplankton and the secchi disc depth with time..... 44
Fig.5.1(a)	Variation of pH and Secchi disc depth during <i>Labeo rohita</i> and <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> PL rearing at different stocking densities..... 51
Fig.5.1(b)	Temperature variation with time in the rearing of post- larvae of <i>Labeo rohita</i> and <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> under different stocking densities..... 52



Fig. 6.1	Coefficient of variation of mean length of <i>C. carpio</i> and <i>Labeo rohita</i> post-larvae reared (a)without supplementary feed (b) with rice bran and (c )locally formulated feed.....	65
Fig.7.1	Variation of temperature, secchi disc depth and pH with time in culture tanks.....	77
Fig.7.2	Variation of plankton and Secchi disc depth in the tanks fertilized with cow-dung.....	78
Fig.7.3	Variation of no. of rotifers and Secchi disc depth in tanks fertilized with cow-dung.....	78

<b>List of plates</b>	<b>Page</b>
Plate 8.1	The fry in net cage temporarily set in stream (Udawalawe Fisheries Station) before being transported to the final destination.....
	105

**ABSTRACT**

**“Some Aspects of Farm-rearing of Post-larvae and fry of Commonly Cultured carps (Pisces: Cyprinidae), and Development of Methodology Suitable for Rearing of Post-larvae and fry by Rural Communities of Sri Lanka”**

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The major constraints in stocking water bodies and aquaculture ponds at present is the lack of fingerlings. As a result of the discontinuation of the state patronage for inland fisheries development in 1990, the development of a community-based method of fry and fingerling rearing became necessary more than ever before.

In the present study the feasibility of producing fish fingerling with community participation was investigated. Most of the raw materials and feed used in the study are cheap and available locally. Cement tanks were used as the rearing vessels. Such trials could be carried out in a suitable location where water is truly available.

Tanks were cleaned, dried, disinfected and filled with screened water which was followed by fertilization with cowdung. The earlier seed production method has been modified by changing some steps and adding new steps (e.g. for control of macro zooplankton) in order to improve the survival and growth.

Cowdung was found to be a better organic manure for the rearing of post-larvae, (PL) although chicken manure could also be used. Fry rearing could be done no manuring.

In the rearing of *Cyprinus carpio* fry, a high stocking density (380 fry m<sup>-2</sup>) could be used in the first two weeks followed by a low stocking density (95 fry m<sup>-2</sup>) in the next four weeks. The suitable stocking density for the rearing of PL of *Aristichthys nobilis* and *Ctenopharyngodon idella* was found to be 600 PL m<sup>-2</sup>, and that for the PL of *Labeo rohita* and *Cyprinus carpio* was found to be 500 PL m<sup>-2</sup>. Higher stocking densities affected the growth and percentage survival of the PL and also increased the duration of rearing period.

Supplementary feeding was essential for the PL for better growth and survival. Rice bran showed better results than a locally formulated feed (C2) in the rearing of *Labeo rohita* PL but *Cyprinus carpio* PL showed better results with C2.

Fertilization with cowdung improved the population of rotifers in 7 - 10 days after the initial dosage. This period, therefore, is suitable for PL stocking. Subsequently application of fertilizer (cowdung) could be done on every 7<sup>th</sup> day.

In order to improve survival the following steps are recommended in PL- and fry-rearing.

\*Tanks should be suitably prepared during each rearing cycle before stocking.

\*Kerosene could be used to control the predatory insects and 0.5 ppm Dipterex could be used to control macro zooplankton.

\*A hand net with a diagonal mesh size of 3 mm made of knotless net material is suitable for fish handling.

\*If algal blooms appear, the surface algal mat should be reduced manually, and water should be kept running in order to remove the remaining algae.

The method proposed here is important because it can be used by the rural fish farming community to produce their own fish seed.