

MORPHOLOGICAL & HISTOLOGICAL CHANGES IN THE GONADS
OF THE ESTUARINE CICHLID FISH *ETROPLUS SURATENSIS* (BLOCH)
DURING GONADAL DEVELOPMENT

A. PATHIRATNE AND H.H. COSTA

Dept. of Zoology, University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

ABSTRACT

The morphology and histology of the gonads of *Etroplus suratensis* associated with gonadal development were studied. Seven stages of maturity were arbitrarily recognized according to their macroscopic appearance. Six spermatogenetic stages were recognized microscopically viz. primary germ cells, spermatogonia, primary spermatocytes, spermatids and spermatozoa. In the ovary, nine stages of oocyte maturation were identified and they are chromatin nucleolus, early perinucleolus, yolk vesicle, primary yolk, secondary yolk, tertiary yolk and ripe egg stages. The study also shows that the female fishes are multiple spawners.

Key-words : Morphology, histology, gonads, estuarine cichlid, *Etroplus suratensis*.