

DATA ON THE PRESENCE OF PLANTIVOROUS FISHES IMPORTED FROM THE FAR EAST IN THE MIDDLE REACH OF THE DANUBE

(DANUBIALIA HUNGARICA LXI.)

by

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There have been several reports on the import, settling, use, importance, development, and nutrition of plantivorous fishes (*Ctenopharyngodon idella* Valenciennes, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*, Valenciennes, *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis* Richardson) in Hungary, as well as on their role played in fish-breeding (Pénzes – Tölg 1963, 1964, 1966, Tölg 1965, 1966a, 1966b, 1966c, Berinkey 1966, Antalfi – Tölg 1968). As it is known from these data the above species were first introduced to Hungary in 1963. Their propagation, for economic reasons as well as on the basis of international contracts, was confined to fishhatcheries. They were kept in natural waters neither in Hungary, nor in other countries in the Danube valley. According to the suggestion of a joint Commission based on the International Danubian Fishing Contract* the contracting governments have not agreed to their introduction in the natural river system of the Danube. However, since these species do occur in the Danube it seems justified to present a short survey on the presence of these species in the Danube.

Samples 2 to 8 were caught at Rácalmás between the 1 and 12 of August, 1966. Some more were caught at the same time as well, but on our arrival we could measure only these seven. The rest had already been sold.

We have good reason to believe that plantivorous fishes were caught elsewhere and on other occasions too in the middle course of the Danube. Here we have dealt only with those specimens which we had seen, and properly identified. As an answer to the question of where these fishes originate from, we refer to the debate of the joint Commission of the above mentioned Contract that took place on the 1961 session. Here several delegates expressed the view that the stocking of the natural river system of the Danube with fishes imported from the Far East can be prohibited by law from the fish hatcheries, however, in which these fishes are propagated, and which are situated in the river system of the Danube, (the

* Signed in Bucharest, by Hungary, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union in 1958.

Species	Place of catch	Time	Measurements
1. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Paks, 1531 km	6. 8. 1966.	weight: 1400 g length: 43 cm
2. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Rácalmás, 1587 km	1-12. 8. 1966.	weight: 1550 g length: 44 cm
3. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Rácalmás, 1587 km	1-12. 8. 1966.	weight: 800 g length: 37 cm
4. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Rácalmás, 1587 km	1-12. 8. 1966.	weight: 1100 g length: 40 cm
5. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Rácalmás, 1587 km	1-12. 8. 1966.	weight: 1400 g length: 42 cm
6. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Rácalmás, 1587 km	1-12. 8. 1966.	weight: 700 g length: 35 cm
7. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Rácalmás, 1587 km	1-12. 8. 1966.	weight: 900 g length: 36 cm
8. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Rácalmás, 1587 km	1-12. 8. 1966.	weight: 950 g length: 37 cm
9. <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> Val.	Apatin, 1401 km	3. 6. 1969.	weight: 1850 g length: 44 cm
10. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Helemba, 1712 km	14. 8. 1969.	weight: 3000 g length: —
11. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Tát, 1724 km	10. 9. 1969.	weight: 3200 g length: —
12. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Tát, 1724 km	10. 9. 1969.	weight: 5000 g length: —
13. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Under the mouth of the river Garam 1713 km	19. 2. 1970.	weight: — length: —
14. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Under the mouth of the river Garam 1713 km	19. 2. 1970.	weight: — length: —
15. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> Val.	Tát, 1724 km	24. 2. 1970.	weight: — length: —

territory of Hungary is situated completely in the river system of the Danube) some specimens might escape in spite of most careful precautions through the various canals they then get into the natural river-system. Our data presented above confirm the views expressed in 1961.

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