

**A BRIEF ACCOUNT ON THE PRESENCE OF THE SILVER
CRUCIAN (*CARRASSIUS AURATUS GIBELIO* BLOCH 1783)
IN THE HUNGARIAN SECTION OF THE DANUBIE
(DANUBIALIA HUNGARICA LXXXIII)**

by

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The silver crucian (*Carrassius auratus gibelio* Bloch 1783) has not been found in Hungary up to 1954. On May 8 of that year two members of the Institute for Pisciculture, I. Jaczó and M. Szalay brought into Hungary the ancestors of the majority of the specimens to be found here since that time, with the aim of cultivating them besides carp in fish-breeding polycultures (Jászfalusi 1959).

At the time fish was imported the general opinion was that it was not susceptible to ascites which had caused so grave losses in fish ponds. — However, as early as 1958 it was already known from experience that, just as the carp, it also could be infected with ascites (Csákány 1958), and by 1959 it became clear that — in contrast to earlier opinion (Szalay 1954) — it was a strong rival of carp with respect to food. Since that time its presence in Hungary has been regarded deleterious and in the recent literature (Ribíánszky — Woynárovich 1962, Antalfi — Tölg 1971) its introduction is considered as having been a faulty measure.

Berinkeý (1966) has established its presence in the fauna living on Hungarian territory, and Tóth (1970) in the Hungarian section of the Danube.

In Hungary it is to be found in great amounts in the fish-farms where, due to improper draining of basins or inadequate level of technology, single individuals survive year by year and produce by uncontrolled spawning further and further generations. In our natural waters — lakes and rivers — it has not appeared yet in masses however its sporadic occurrence in these waters has already been recorded. Its highest populations are to be found in the tributary Körös of the river Tisza and in the braches of the former.

In the estuary and delta of the Danube, as well as in the flood-plain lakes to be found there a gradation of the species has been observed (Kukura dze 1974). On account of its rapid increase and intense spread this species amounted to 35% of the total catches in the Roumani-

an part of the Danube delta in 1973 (D u v a z — T a b a c o p o l 1974). This fact prompted us to follow the spread of the silver crucian in the Hungarian section of the Danube.

On the basis of the opinions of professional ficheremen in the Hungarian section of the Danube and from our own experience we conclude that the silver crucian is sporadically present everywhere in the Hungarian section of the Danube. It is more frequent to the south of Budapest below Paks (1530 river kilometre), where there are a great number of branches of quit flow. Above Budapest it is to be found rather infrequently. Its occurrence in the catches is so far insignificant, and cannot even be expressed in number per mille.

In the Table presented some data of the specimens of silver crucians are given that were caught, observed, weighed and measured by the author. The ages of the fish were determined from the scales.

Table I.

Time			Place	Weight	Length	Age
of the catch			of the fish			
year	day	month	river kilometre	gram	cm	years
1967	22nd	August	Danube 1480 rkm	35	10.5	one summer
1969	12th	September	Danube 1509 rkm	280	19.0	three summers
1971	20th	May	Danube 1450 rkm	225	17.5	four summers
1972	17th	July	Danube 1602 rkm	83	13.5	two summers
1972	25th	August	Danube 1475 rkm	60	12.0	two summers
1973	17th	August	Danube 1491 rkm	180	14.5	three summers
1973	17th	August	Danube 1491 rkm	190	14.5	three summers
1973	11th	November	Danube 1670 rkm.	220	17.0	four summers
1974	14th	May	Danube 1585 rkm	60	13.0	three summers
1974	8th	June	Danube 1531 rkm	170	14.0	three summers

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