Induce breeding of striped catfish (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus)* using Ovaprim in Sri Lanka.

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Abstract

Striped catfish, iridescent shark or (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) is a highly popular omnivorous fish with a high growth rate. They are schooling fish which makes a delightful display in an aquarium. Southeast Asian nations have been utilizing it as an important food fish for hundreds of years and it is also a popular aquarium fish around the globe. This fish do not reproduces in natural or captive environment in Sri Lanka. Therefore they have to be induced using artificial technics in order to get offsprings. This study was conducted to implore the potential of captive breeding of striped catfish using artificial induce technique.

The brood stocks with optimum health were collected from the holding tanks of National Zoological garden, Dehiwala. Once the gravid females and male were identified they were subjected into induce breeding trials. Three separated hormonal treatments of Synthetic hormone, Ovaprim was given. Two doses of 0.5ml/kg were given to female and male was given one dose of 0.5 mg/kg body weight, at the time of second injection to female. Stripping was considered as best technique to fertilize the eggs and dry method of egg fertilization was followed in trials. The fish responded positively and ovulated within 5-6 hours after the second injection. The fertilization rate ranged from 85-95%. The hatching period ranged between 24 to 26 hours at a water temperature of 28-32°C. After 10 days, black body color appeared in hatchlings and they started to feed rapidly.

Results of the present study would help the hatchery managers in managing the induced breeding programs of *P. hypophthalmus* and other catfishes. It will help to fulfill the rising demand for striped catfish in ornamental culture trade.

Key words :Striped catfish, *Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*, Ovaprim, ovulation, fertilization rate