

## The maturity and reproduction of *Pseudobagrus nitidus* (Sauvage et Dabry de Thiersant)

Gang WEI, Ling HUANG, Deyong PU and Guofu JIANG

School of Life Science, Southwest China Normal University, Chongqing 400715, China

**Abstract** – The maturity and reproduction of the catfish (*Pseudobagrus nitidus* Sauvage et Dabry de Thiersant) in the River Jialing, China, including the age of its sexual maturation, the spawning colonies and the mature fecundity were studied. The research showed that the maturity age of catfish usually was one year and its sexual ratio did not vary in the different seasons of the year. The ratio between males and females during the spawning period, in the feeding season and during the wintering period was about 1:1. The peak of breeding occurred from the end of May to the end of July. The maturity coefficient of females was as high as 12.0% in the breeding season, a great decrease occurring in other seasons. It was also found that the absolute fecundity of catfish changed with body length and body weight. The relation between the absolute fecundity and body length was  $F=0.4342\chi^{3.267}$ ,  $R^2=0.8218$  and the relation between the absolute fecundity and body weight  $F=16.805\chi^{1.264}$ ,  $R^2=0.7223$ .

**Key words:** *Pseudobagrus nitidus*, maturation coefficients, reproduction population.