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18. Dr. Sudem Basumatary, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, S. B. Deorah College, has Research Collaboration with Dr. Bandita Talukdar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Zoology, Pandu College.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Study on the Food and Feeding Habits of the Chocolate Mahseer from Jiyabharali River of Sonitpur District, Assam, India

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ABSTRACT

This paper embodies to investigate the food and feeding intensity of Chocolate mahseer (*Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*) with respect to season, maturity stages and length of the fishes. The diet composition of *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis* during different season were determined based on the analysis of 60 specimens, collected from Jiya Bharali River. The fish are found to be an omnivore with higher feeding preference for plant material than for animal material and high values of its gastro-somatic indices species to be a voracious feeder. The feeding activity of the fishes found to be increased with the increase in size of fish.

Keywords: Chocolate mahseer, food, feeding and Jiya Bharali

INTRODUCTION

Neolissochilus hexagonolepis widely recognized as a sport fish due to its tremendous size and strength facilities but this species is facing tremendous ignorance in terms of its habitat loss and over fishing, and becoming near threatened in IUCN Red list Data book. Originating from the Tawang border district in Arunachal Pradesh, Jia Bhoroli or Jia Bharali is a habitat of many coldwater fishes of species. However, the population of different fish species is in decreasing mode over the years due to various anthropogenic factors. The study of the food and feeding habit of fishes provide keys for the selection of culturable species and necessary information for successful fish farming [1]. The present study deals with food and feeding habits of *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis* from Jia Bharali River.

