

A Note On A Large Catla, *Catla catla* (Hamilton) Captured From The Ramasamudram Tank, South Kanara District

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On the 12th March 1970, a catla, *Catla catla* (Hamilton) measuring 3'8" (1117 mm) in total length and weighing approximately 25 kg. was caught in a gill net in the Ramasamudram Tank in South Kanara district. As this fish appears to be the biggest caught in recent years from the tank, some details regarding the same are reported here.

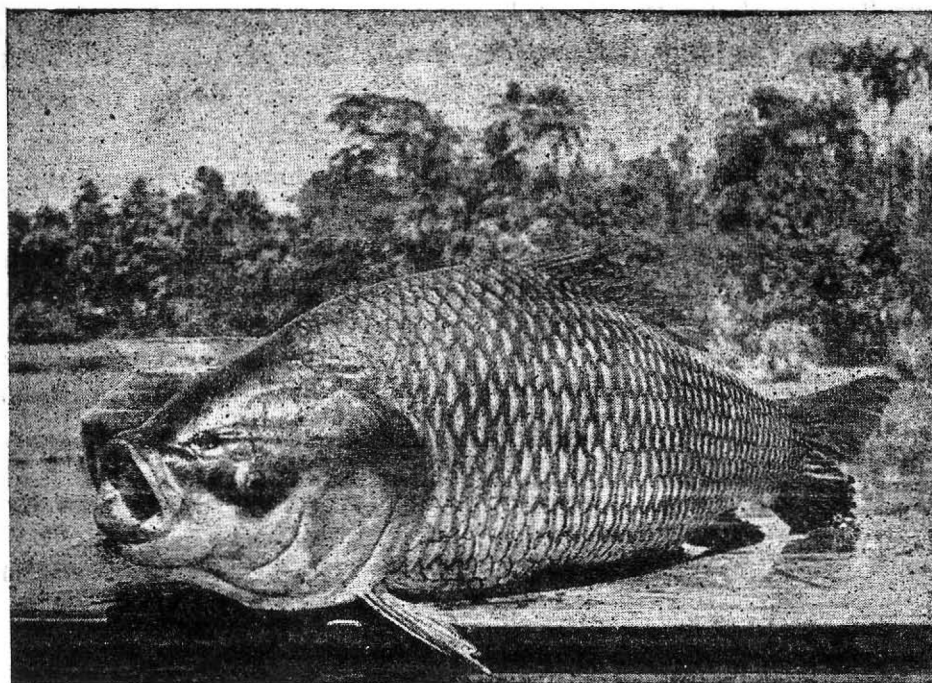


Fig. 1- *Catla catla* (Hamilton), 1117 mm in total length, captured from the Ramasamudram Tank in South Kanara district on 12-3-1970.

Records show the tank had been stocked with seed of the major carps over a number of years. Therefore, it has not been possible to determine the exact age of the fish based on the date of its capture. However, examination of scales of the specimen indicated that there are six growth rings and that the first four rings are wide apart while the last two are closer suggesting faster growth rate in the former period compared to that in the latter period. From known information on the growth rate, size in relation to weight and age of the species in widely different habitats like tanks, ponds and reservoirs (Kulkarni, 1953; Jhingran, 1968) the present specimen could be considered to be about seven years old at the time of its capture, since the first ring on the scales of this species is known to form when the fish is two years old (Natarajan and Jhingran, 1963).

The rate of growth *Catla* is known to vary widely according to its habitat (Kulkarni 1953; Jhingran 1968). The tank from which this fish was captured has a water spread area of about 17 hectares with special topographic features like the surrounding mountainous terrain, patchy marginal and submerged vegetation, connection to a river and a maximum average depth of four meters. Though the tank had been considered unproductive hitherto, recent researches by the scientists of the College of Fisheries, Mangalore indicate that primary production in the tank is fairly high.

Besides the Carps, Murrels, Gourami and Pearl spot are commonly caught in the tank, all of which were also found to breed in the same.

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