

PART III
NOTES AND ABSTRACTS

NOTES:

A NOTE ON THE COMPARATIVE CATCH EFFICIENCY OF NYLON
OVER COTTON GILL NETS IN RESERVOIR FISHING

Molin (1950, 1951 and 1953), Lawler (1950), Hewson (1951), Atton (1955), Kennedy (1956) and Pycha (1962) have in their studies shown the relative effectiveness of nylon webbings over those of cotton. The increase in catch ranged from a little less than two times to slightly more than three times. All these investigations were, however, restricted to fishes of the temperate latitude. The present authors therefore conducted a series of experiments to evaluate the relative efficiency of nylon in tropical waters, particularly in reservoir fishing. The experiments were conducted in the Gobindsagar reservoir (Himachal Pradesh/Punjab). The nets made with both materials were identical in essential details like twine size, mesh size, number of floats and sinkers and hanging co-efficients.

They were operated as surface set gill nets. On an average 3 pieces of cotton and 10 pieces of nylon nets were set side by side under identical conditions. The arrangement of the nets for each day of fishing was according to the standard statistical pattern. The nets were lifted once a day and the number and weight of fishes caught in each net were recorded. Altogether 26 fishing trips were undertaken. The catch consisted of *Labeo diplostomas*, *L. bata*, *Barbus tor*, *Mystus seenghala*, *B. sarana* and *Cyprinus carpio*

var communis in their order of abundance. The analysed catch details are tabulated in Table I.

TABLE I

Particulars	Cotton webbing	Nylon webbing
Total fishing trips	26	26
Total no. of nets operated	76	259
Total no. of fishes caught	30	1156
Total wt. of fishes caught	48.75 kg.	1955.5 kg.
No. of fishes caught per		
100 sq metres of webbing	0.30	2.3
Wt. of fishes caught per		
100 sq metres of webbing	0.43 kg.	3.9 kg.

From the analysed catch data it is found that nylon nets catch 9.0 times more by weight and 7.6 times more by number than the cotton webbing per 100 sq. m. of webbing.

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