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SUITABILITY OF GUINEA GRASS (*PANICUM MAXICUM*) AS A COLLECTING MATERIAL OF EGGS OF COMMON CARP (*CYPRINUS CARPIO*) DURING SPAWNINGS

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Common carp *(Cyprinus carpio)* is commonly cultured in ponds and seasonal tanks in Sri Lanka. Common carp eggs are sticky and for eggs to develop, they should get attached to a suitable surface at spawning. Strips of polyethylene made into bundles are commonly used in common carp spawning for egg deposition. In this study, the efficiency of polyethylene strips were compared with tender leaves of Guinea A (*Panicum maxicum*).

The experiment was conducted in four 21.6 m^2 cement ponds. Guinea A grass and polyethylene bases were prepared by tying bundles of Guinea A grass leaves/polyethylene strips on either side of 3 m long bamboo sticks, leaving a space of 25 cm in between bundles. Total surface area and the total length of all the bundles were made approximately equal. Two polyethylene bases and two grass bases were randomly placed in each tank. Common carps were equally distributed in the four tanks and conditions were provided for them to spawn.

A random sample of leaves/strips from each treatment was collected and the total number of eggs, unfertilized eggs and unhatched eggs counted.

Total number of eggs deposited, fertility and hatchability rates were found to be significantly higher ($P<.01$) in Guinea A leaves than in polyethylene showing that Guinea A leaves are more suitable for carp breeding than polyethylene.

This work was supported by IFS (Sweden).