

SUITABILITY OF BANANA (MUSA ACUMINATA) LEAVES AS A  
COLLECTING MATERIAL OF EGGS OF COMMON  
(CYPRINUS CARPIO) DURING SPAWNING.

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Common carp (Cyprinus carpio) is extensively cultured throughout the world and is a popular fish among Sri Lankans.

It breeds naturally in confined water. However, this results in very poor yield of post larvae. In order to overcome this, common carps are usually bred semi-artificially. 'Kakabans' made of various materials are used to deposit their sticky eggs. In this study, the efficiency of banana (Musa acuminata) leaves were compared with Guinea A (Panicum maximum) leaves.

Bamboo sticks, with 'Kakabans' either of banana leaves or Guinea A leaves were randomly distributed in the four spawning tanks each of 12.5 m<sup>2</sup> in area. Spawners were introduced and physico-chemical conditions necessary for spawning was provided.

Common carps in all four tanks spawned. 25-30 random samples, each of banana leaves and Guinea A leaves with approximately the same surface area were collected from each replicate to determine the total number of eggs deposited and the number of unfertilized eggs. 72 hours after spawning same sampling procedure was repeated to find the percent hatchability. RCBD was used for statistical analysis.

Total number of eggs deposited per unit area (cm<sup>2</sup>) was found to be significantly higher ( $p < 0.05$ ) in Guinea A leaves than in banana leaves. However, fertility rate was found to be significantly higher ( $p < 0.05$ ) in banana leaves than in Guinea A leaves. Hatchability rate did not show statistical significance ( $p > 0.05$ ) between the treatments, inferring that banana leaves could also be used for common carp spawning.

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