

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE COLONIZATION SUCCESS OF  
THREE EXOTIC CICHLID SPECIES IN A NEWLY BUILT  
HIGHLAND RESERVOIR, VICTORIA, SRI LANKA.

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Victoria the largest hydro-power reservoir in the island is characterised by a highly stressed eco-system due to constant drawdown of water for hydro-power generation.

From its inception, this reservoir has been stocked with both exotic cichlid and carp species, with a view towards increasing protein availability to the poor in the vicinity.

Studies conducted from May 1990 to June 1991 revealed that this reservoir has been colonized by both indigenous and exotic fish and cichlids now constitute the mainstay of the commercial catch. Of the total fish yield, cichlids averaged around 60-75%. Among the cichlid species Oreochromis mossambicus dominated the population constituting 50-65%, Oreochromis niloticus accounts for 6-8% and Tilapia rendalli 4-5%.

The annual fish yield of 35-70 Kg ha<sup>-1</sup> from this reservoir was found to be significantly lower than from shallower lowland reservoirs.

The availability of food and nesting sites, the greater mean depth (32.2m), and constant fluctuation of water level, probably account for the relatively poor population density of cichlids that has been observed.