D-11 : SUITABILITY OF *Tephrosia purpuria* (PILLA) PLANTS AS A COLLECTING MATERIAL OF EGGS OF *Cyprinus carpio* (COMMON CARP) DURING SPAWNING

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Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) is the first reared fish in China in about 460 B.C. It has become an economically important fish in inland fishery industry of Sri Lanka.

This study was carried out at the University Farm, Peradeniya, to compare the efficiency of *Tephrosia purpuria* (Pilla plants) with *Panicum maximum* (Guinea A) leaves as a suitable material for the deposition of eggs. Pilla plants are used traditionally in the coastal areas of Sri Lanka, in catching some species of marine fish.

'Kakabans' made either of Pilla plants or Guinea A leaves were tied on two sides of eight bamboo sticks,leaving a space of 25 cm between two bundles. Eight bamboo sticks, with 'Kakabans' were placed randomly in the four cement tanks each of 12.5 m^2 in area. Visually selected common carp spawners were introduced to cement tanks and environmental conditions suitable for spawning were provided.

Total number of eggs deposited, total number of unfertilized eggs and the number of unhatched eggs were determined in the four tanks by taking random samples of Pilla plants and Guinea A leaves. Experiment was done according to a RCB design.

T.purpuria plants had significantly higher (p 0.05) number of eggs deposited per cm^2. Fertility and hatchability values did not show a significant difference (p 0.05) between the two treatments.

This study reveals that Pilla plants are more suitable for common carp egg deposition than Guinea A leaves.

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