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Spatial variation and sexual dimorphism in morphology of *Puntius singhala* (Cyprinidae)

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Intraspecific variation in morphology was studied in *Puntius singhala*, a freshwater Cyprinid endemic to Sri Lanka. In *P. singhala*, significant morphological heterogeneity was evident among some of the six freshwater populations studied, although the level of differentiation was not large. The differentiable variation in morphology among fish populations has been suggested as indicative of the presence of stock structuring and restricted movement among geographically isolated populations. In *P. singhala*, the observed variation may be defined as differentiable variation in some populations as evidenced by the results of the Discriminant analysis (Wilk's Lambda = 0.167, $p<0.001$). The variation observed has no significant correlation to the inter-locality geographic distance, thus isolation-by-distance was not a plausible explanation, while phenotypic plasticity may have contributed more for the observed variability in morphology. Testing for sexual dimorphism in the pooled sample revealed slight yet significant between-sex differences in three of the size corrected character measurements, i.e. caudal peduncle length, dorsal finbase length and pectoral fin length where the males had slightly longer dimensions than females.

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