The comparison of structure osteology in faridpaki spined loach, *Cobitis faridpaki* (Cypriniformes: Cobitidae) from southern Caspian Sea basin

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Abstract

This study was conducted to provide a detailed osteological description of Faridpaki spined loach, *Cobitis faridpaki* and comparing it with that of *C. taenia.* Recently, *C. faridpaki* was described from Siahrud River (southern Caspian Sea basin). The results of the present study provide some information about biological features this native and recently introduced species as well as more robust identification features, i.e. osteological ones. For this purpose, 20 specimens of Faridpaki spined loach were collected from Siahrud River by electrofishing and cleared and stained with alizarin red S and alcian blue for osteological examinations. Then, detailed osteological features of this species was provided. The results showed differences in the structure of the maxillary, premaxillary, pectoral girdle and anterior part of the neurocranium with those of *C. taenia* that can be considered as special features of fridpaki spined loach.

Keywords: Osteology, *Cobitis faridpaki*, *Cobitis taenia*, Spined Loach.