

Chagunius chagunio (Hamilton, 1822)

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- *Chagunius chagunio* is distributed in the Ganga and Brahmaputra drainages of northern and north eastern India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Fish is generally found in large rivers characterized by rocky bottom, clear and fast water with little or no vegetation. Adults are found in habitats with stronger current than juveniles.
- It is assessed as Least Concern.
- It attains a maximum length of about half a meter; reaches maturity at a size of 20-25 cm. Tips of the pectoral dorsal and anal fin has orange tint. Fish is having good food value.
- Sexual dimorphism: In males, during breeding season, nuptial tubercles are most heavily developed, densely covering snout and cheek; last two fin rays elongate and reaching to the base of caudal fin. Males are more brilliant with fin tip marked in black. Females are comparatively larger in size.
- Breeding season starts from April to June. Fecundity of this fish is very low, average 100 g fish spawn 1500-2500 eggs in each batch. The fish lay eggs under the gravel layer. Usually male dig the nest on the gravel surface.
- With good management practice, both the sexes attain sexual maturity in captivity. Natural spawning of this species successfully achieved in aquarium tanks without use of any stimulating hormone during month of March and April in controlled conditions.
- Fertilized eggs are pale yellow in colour and have diameter of 1.8-2.2 mm in size. Embryonic developments take 4- 5 day at temperature of 20-22⁰C. Eggs are hatched in floating incubation trays in a closed re-circulatory incubation tank.
- Newly hatched hatchlings are 9-11 mm in length. Yolk sac absorb within 2-3 days. Spawn readily accept poultry egg yolk suspension as first feed. The fertilized eggs are incubated in perforated hatching trays that placed in a glass aquarium equipped with water filtration system. Sand gravel act as a substrate for biological filter to eliminate the toxic ammonia.
- The seed can be raised without live feed with a survival rate of 70-80% in aquarium and FRP tanks successfully provided with good water filtration and water quality management practice.

Photographs



Chagunius brood stock



Chagunius developing embryo



Chagunius Male



Chagunius Female



Chgunius fry



Chagunius spawn