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VARIABILITÀ NEI CARATTERI MORFOLOGICI  
E NELL'ACCRESIMENTO DI *RUTILUS ERYTHROPHthalmus*  
(OSTEICHTHYES, CYPRINIDAE)

SUMMARY

MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERS AND GROWTH VARIABILITY IN " *RUTILUS ERYTHROPHthalmus* " (OSTEICHTHYES, CVPRINIDAE). - Results are reported of research on the variability of Red-eye roach (i.e. *Rutilus erythrophthalmus*, Zerunian 1982), an endemic Cyprinid of Italian fresh waters. The growth of the weight and the standard length, 19 morphometric and 10 meristic characters of 138 specimens of 6 different populations have been examined.

Intervals of variation in morphological characters typical of the species are defined, integrating the collected data with the others reported in previous papers. Comparisons performed between couples of populations highlighted the existence of statistically significant differences in most of the considered characters. The intrapopulation variability is also consistent. It is advanced the hypothesis that the differences among the diverse populations are the phenotypic result of a diffuse norm of reaction of the genotype, performed in diverse environmental conditions ; in such a situation as this, both the morphometric and the meristic characters are not suitable for systematic use. Therefore the proposal of any subspecific group is not acceptable.

The growth of the weight is fairly different in diverse populations, while the growth of the standard length is less variable ; concerning the latter it is proposed a " spectrum " of growth as a possible biological character of the species.