

DOES PARAPINEAL IN *CHANNA PUNCTATUS* (BL.) HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH AIR-BREATHING HABIT?

A well-developed parapineal organ has been found to be present in Channa punctatus (Bl.) fry up to the size of 12 mm. The parapineal organ is situated on the left side of the brain near the pineal stalk and sends nerve tract to the left habenular nucleus. In fish above 12 mm size the organ degenerates and no parapineal is seen in Channa punctatus of 15mm. The function of parapineal organ in fish is not known definitely. No apparent correlation between presence / sizes of parapineal in fish with salinity, or latitude of geographical distribution thereby, with light regime and temperature is known. It is the 10-11 mm size when Channa punctatus takes to air breathing and surface breaking habit is seen. A possible relationship of air breathing habit and degeneration of parapineal organ in the fish has been discussed.
