News of the Hungarian Ichthyological Society, 2012

HUGE HUCHEN (*HUCHO HUCHO*) IN THE DANUBE

'It prefers the pits of riverbed sections with stronger flow, bays with steep banks, places beneath stone revetments and on the lower parts of gravel banks', says the book 'Fishes of Hungary' by Harka and Sallai. The 96-centimeter-long specimen caught by Gyula Kraft on 7 October 2010 in the Danube near Győr was found in a habitat exactly corresponding to the description. This beautiful fish was caught by spin fishing and was lifted out of water only to get photographed, then it was released back to the water of Danube.

Huchen from Danube *(Photo: Zsolt Bézsenyi)*

In spite of the occasional observations, huchen is quite rare in the upper region of our major rivers. We hope that the introduction of this fish into River Drina in the fall of 2011 is the beginning of a process that will make this fish more frequent in the water system of the Danube.

Gyula Kraft, László Antal

Citation: Csipkés R., Szatmári L., Soós N. (2012): Nyugati pikó (*Gasterosteus gymnurus*) a Drávában. *Halászat* 105/1: 17–18.

WESTERN THREESPINED STICKLEBACK (*GASTEROSTEUS GYMNURUS*) FROM THE RIVER DRAVA

Previously, three morphological forms of the threespined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) were distinguished by the number of lateral bony scutes. These forms were *leiurus*, *trachurus* and *semiarmatus*. But for now this taxa has been split into two species. The less armored form (*leiurus*), which spreaded mainly in western and southern Europe became *Gasterosteus gymnurus* (western threespined stickleback), while the more North- and East-European, full armored form was named *Gasterosteus aculeatus* (threespined stickleback). The half-armored semiarmatus is regarded as the hybrid of the two species, with the addition that on the western threespined stickleback individuals, which can be found in the the hybrid zone, the bone scutes may appear on caudal peduncle and the number of them could be more than 10, but may be missing on the threespined stickleback.

Western threespined stickleback from Drava River (*Photo: Roland Csipkés*)

During the last century all the three forms of the *Gasterosteus aculeatus* were found in the Hungarian Danube section and in some of its tributaries. As the morphology of the specimens has not been recorded, we do not have exact information in which of the localities, which of the valid species is covered by the name *Gasreosteus aculeatus*.

In 2010 Harka and Szepesi presumed by confirming the presence of the typical and transitional forms of the currently valid species that Hungary is located in the hybrid zone. That demands the re-assessment of the known populations and in addition a more careful examination of the new occurrences and the publication of the results.

In response to this we report that on 7th September 2010 we caught a western threespined stickleback (*Gasterosteus gymnurus*) specimen in the river Drava, in the shallow water of the coastal stone scatter near the village Matty (rkm 236: EOVX = 589600, EOVY = 46720). This species has never been found before in this river.

From the Vojvodina section of the Danube the presence of the less armored (leiurus) form was reported in 2007. This fact may mean that the species' area is naturally expanding along the Drava, starting from the Danube, which can be proved by further investigations and collections.

Roland Csipkés, Lajos Szatmári, Noémi Soós

Citation: Csipkés R., Szatmári L., Soós N. (2012): Nyugati pikó (*Gasterosteus gymnurus*) a Drávában. *Halászat* 105/1: 17-18.

DWARF GOBY *(KNIPOWITSCHIA SP.)* FROM THE TISZA RIVER

On 25th May 2012 we were collecting data on recruitment of early spawning predatory fish species in the littoral zone of the Tisza-tó reservoir near Tiszafüred. During collection of samples of this year's young pike, pikeperch and asp by the help of a 6 mm mesh size net we found a small fish not described as far from Tisza River. On the basis of a preliminary examination we can state that the new-comer belongs to the genus of dwarf gobies *Knipowitschia* achieving a body length of only 3-4 cm.

Dwarf goby of only 3 cm body length from the Tisza
(Photo: Ákos Harka)

Exact identification requires further examinations as data on specific characters in the literature are inconsistent. It is possible that the specimen belongs to the species Caucasian dwarf goby *(Knipowitschia caucasica)* first time described in Hungary from the river Szamos River by Béla Halasi-Kovács and László Antal in 2011, but identity with other member of the genus also can not be excluded.

Ákos Harka, Gábor Papp, Krisztián Nyeste

Citation: Harka Á., Papp G., Nyeste K. (2012): A Tisza új hala egy törpegébfaj (*Knipowitschia sp.*). *Halászat* 105/2: 17.

AMUR SLEEPER (*PERCCOTTUS GLENII*) IN THE HÉVÍZ–PÁHOKI-CANAL

The Hévíz–Páhoki-canal carries the water of the Hévízi thermal pond to the Zala river inflowing Lake Balaton. On 19th October 2011 electrofishing was carried out in the mouth section of the watercourse, in the framework of the investigations focused on exotic species of the EULAKES (Europaean Lakes under Environmental Stressors) project. During the former sampling occasions 12 species were caught in this site, including low quantiity of the European mudminnow (*Umbra krameri*), and now two specimens of Amur sleeper (Perccottus glenii) has been identified as new species. Their the standard length and mass were 72 mm, 7 g and 82 mm, 11 g respectively. The coordinates of the sampling site: X = 511 586, Y = 152 222 (EOV Hungarian grid).

The Amur sleeper first occurred in the Balaton catchment area in 2008, when Erős et al, then Harka et al. observed it in the Marótölgyi-canal. The location of the first occurrence lies 20, the second 8, and the recent one only 2 air kilometers from the Lake Balaton. In accordance with previous findings the species spreads continuously, its occurrence in the western basin of Lake Balaton might be expected in the nearest future.

Árpád Ferincz, Ádám Staszny, Gábor Paulovits

Citation: Ferincz Á., Staszny Á., Paulovits G. (2012): Amurgéb (*Perccottus glenii*) a Hévíz–Páhoki-csatornában. *Halászat* 105/1: 18.

STREBER (*ZINGEL STREBER*) IN THE MIDDLE-TISZA

Fish faunistic data were collected with a German-made, aggregated electric fishing gear on the 18th of October, 2011 on the area of the Middle-Tisza Landscape Protection Area. The water level of the river Tisza was extremely low during this period, this is why a 300 meters long bank with hard, clay bottom was found in the watercourse, from the border of Tiszaföldvár and Cibakháza, under the 297 river km, on the left side of the river to the border of Tiszajenő, on the right side of the river. The water flow was extremely fast on the bank as if we were on the Upper-Tisza. A 135 millimetres long streber (*Zingel streber*) was caught in the shallow water near the bank. A digital photo was taken about the specimen. After it other 4 specimens were caught, too.

Streber (*Zingel streber*) from the Middle-Tisza
(*Photo: Zoltán Sallai*)

The sampling place was situated in Tiszajenő. The specimens belonged to three different age-groups, so a self-supporting population is assumed to live here. This species is a strictly protected endemism in Hungary so all the specimens were readmitted to the river immediately after taking photos.

Zoltán Sallai, Ákos Monoki

Citation: Sallai Z., Monoki Á. (2012): Német bucók (*Zingel streber*) a Közép-Tiszáról. *Halászat* 105/2: 18.

STRANGE CAUDAL FIN ABBERATION OF AN AMUR SLEEPER (*PERCCOTTUS GLENII*)

During field sampling we can rather often observe strangely formed fish individuals. Our short paper is reporting on an Amur sleeper specimen presenting an abnormal caudal fin. The fish was found on 7th September 2011 in the Cserőközi-Holt-Tisza oxbow-lake near Tiszaszőlős. The specimen on the bottom of this picture has got a concave shaped caudal fin instead of the normal convex shaped caudal fin.

Amur sleepers with normal caudal fin (above), and with abnormal caudal fin (below) (*Photo: László Antal*)

Our first presumption that the abnormal caudal fin is a result of a predator's attack, seems unlikely because of the high degree of its symmetry. This abnormality shows a big similarity to the caudal fin of some Poeciliidae species which are kept as ornamental fish. This kind of tail is known as lyretail in fishkeeping, so it may be possible that this phenomenon has genetic reasons. This year we have conducted many fish-faunistic sampling in the same waterbody, populated highly by Amur sleeper, but we haven't found other similar individual.

Attila Mozsár, Sára Kati, László Antal

Citation: Mozsár A., Kati S., Antal L. (2012): Az amurgéb (*Perccottus glenii*) érdekes farokúszó-aberrációja. *Halászat* 105/2: 18.

FISH IN MUD-SLOP

There were several fieldtrip organized by Duna-Ipoly National Park in Taksony to monitor the effects of draging Taksonyi-side arm in autumn 2011. Draging process were done by 340 HP Diesel pump, that moving the mud-water mixture into the dumpsite to an artificially created pond (1.7 hectares).

The way of the mud to the sedimenting pond (*Photo: Balázs Tóth*)

Because of low the velocity the mud is depositing in the pond, and the water flows back to the side arm. According to our previous observations, fish may enter the pump, and cross the mechanical system without any injury, but after that they are

trapped in the deposit-pond. Electrofishing and throwing netting were done in the deposit pond to find fish that crossed the pump system. During two sampling time (27. Oct. 2011, 10. Nov. 2011) 180 fish individuals of 8 species were found.

Number of specimens of different species identified from the mud deposit-pond

Species	Number of specimens
Roach (*Rutilus rutilus*)	3
Bleak (*Alburnus alburnus*)	5
White bream (*Blicca bjoerkna*)	22
Black bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*)	110
Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*)	3
Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*)	3
Ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernua*)	4
Tubenosed goby (*Proterorhinus semilunaris*)	28

The largest fish was a white bream of 20 cm body length. Only one injured fish was found: a black bullhead. The lenght of the pump system is 700-800 m. The rotor (with 3 paddle) was turning 650-700/min. Presumably fish which are in the coverage of the pump enter into the system when the pump starts. The total surviving rate cannot be calculated because fish-eating birds may capture injured fish in the deposit-pond. There were numerous dead shells, and one spinny-cheak crayfish (*Orconectes limosus*) in the deposit-pond.

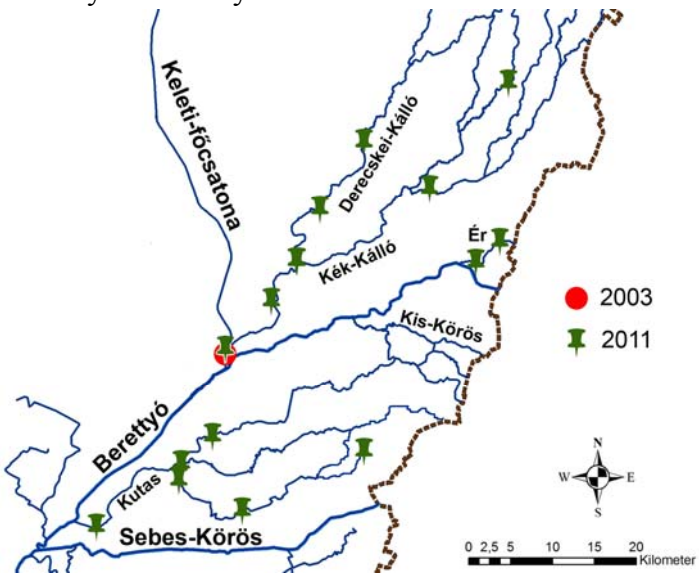
Balázs Tóth, Adrienn Nagy

Citation: Tóth B., Nagy A. (2012): Halak a zagyban. *Halászat* 105/2: 17-18.

SPREADING OF TUBENOSED GOBY (*PROTERORHINUS SEMILUNARIS*) IN THE HUNGARIAN CATCHMENT OF RIVER BERETTYÓ

The tubenosed goby appeared in Hungary in the 19th century, but it occupied the waters of Germany and the Netherlands, presumably caused by water traffic. Water traffic is not typical in the catchment of the River Tisza in Hungary, so the species spreads there in a natural way. Following its expansion topographically gives valuable information about the spreading dynamics of the species. Few publications on fish fauna report on its spreading in the north part of Hungary, but not much data is available about the eastern part of the country.

We first carried out a detailed survey on the fish fauna of Berettyó catchment in 2003. Five specimens of tubenose goby were found in the downstream of canal Kálló. In the



The spreading of tubenosed goby

summer of 2011 when we repeated the research 121 specimens were detected from 15 sections of 9 watercourses (Csente-ér, Derecskei-Kálló, Ér-főcsatorna, Konyári-Kálló, Kődombszigeti-csatorna, Kutas-főcsatorna, Létai-ér, Ölyvös-ér, Szöcsköd-Komádi-csatorna).

Today its presence became wide-spread in the northern and southern catchment of river Berettyó. Analysing the data and the spreading map it can be stated that the species covered 60 km in 8 years and it settled down successfully in the lately occupied areas.

László Antal, Attila Mozsár, István Czeglédi, Béla Halasi-Kovács

Citation: Antal L., Mozsár A., Czeglédi I., Halasi-Kovács B. (2012): A tarka géb (*Proterorhinus semilunaris*) terjedése a Berettyó hazai vízgyűjtőjén. *Halászat* 105/3: 17.

FISHES OF THE CSERŐKÖZI-HOLT-TISZA

Cserőközi-Holt-Tisza is situated along the border of Tiszaderzs and Tiszaszőlős, it has arised during the regulation of Tisza river in 1865. Its area is 192,74 acres, the length is 10.5 km, the average width is 74m and the average depth is 0.7m. Resulting from its position on the protected bank it provides quite unstable water supplies. Although it is under local protection its water is used for irrigation.

The Cserőközi-Holt-Tisza (*Photo: László Antal*)

In 2011 according to the formality of the Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring System we studied the fish fauna of the area three times, which turned out to be very poor in species. During the vernal sampling among the 47 Amur sleepers (*Perccottus glenii*) we found only one individual each of Crucian carp (*Carassius carassius*), Prussian carp (*Carassius gibelio*) and False razbora (*Pseudorasbora parva*). In summer we caught only one Prussian carp and 52 Amur sleepers. While taking samples in autumn, the list of the species broadened with the Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*) with the four individuals of it we collected 21 Amur sleepers as well. The backwater is in an advanced phase of ageing; the macrophyte coverage in summer can reach the 100% of the water surface. The presence of anaerobic bacterias (*Chromatium sp.*) discovered in autumn demonstrates the permanent low oxygen concentration of the water. This explains the low number of individuals and species, because only highly tolerant species can endure such grim circumstances.

The results of our analysis showed that the protection of backwaters can only be efficient if it is associated with wise management. Otherwise, it might easily serve the opposite directions supporting the spread and the reproduction of our invasive species.

Sára Kati, Attila Mozsár, László Antal

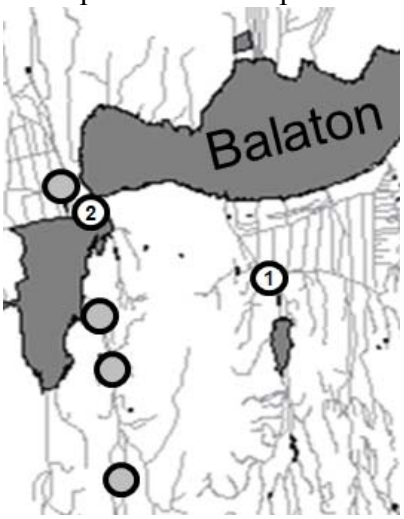
Citation: Kati S., Mozsár A., Antal L. (2012): A Cserőközi-Holt-Tisza halai. *Halászat* 105/3: 15.

NEW LOCALITIES OF CHINESE SLEEPER (*PERCCOTTUS GLENII* DYBOWSKY, 1877) IN THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF LAKE BALATON

The invasive species Chinese sleeper (*Perccottus glenii* Dybowsky, 1877) continues its spread in the drainage system of Lake Balaton. Two new localities were found by the researchers of Balaton Limnological Institute (HAS CER BLI). Two specimens were found at the confluence of the Boronka-stream and the Nyugati-övcsatorna channel (Coordinates: N46.65817, E17.422916), 6 kilometers away from Lake Balaton at 19. 05. 2012. This locality is well separated from former sampling sites, which are confined to the drainage system of the River Zala. This new locality could be reached from the already known localities through the Lake Balaton only. Therefore if spontaneous dispersion is presumed the Chinese sleeper have already attended the Southwest region of the lake. Moreover the finding of another new locality situated at the estuary of the River Zala in the vicinity of the T-21 floodgate (Coordinates: N46.701075, E17.257579) about 700 meters from the lake seems to support our assumption. In this site mainly juvenile specimens of Chinese sleeper were detected several times (14. 06. 2012., 05. 07. 2012, 19. 07. 2012). Nevertheless the occurence of this species in Lake Balaton still has not been proved.

Chinese sleeperfrom the drainage system of Lake Balaton
(*Photo: Péter Takács*)

Beside of these facts, we have to note, that the new locality found on the Boronka-stream is situated to the vicinity of the Marcali-reservoir, a lake used for fish production. Therefore the escape of Chinese sleeper from the reservoir also cannot be excluded. In this case, multiple introduction routes are assumed to the drainage area of the lake.



Localities of the
Chinese sleeper
(1: Boronkai-patak, 2: Zala-torok)

Péter Takács, Zoltán Vitál, Zoltán Poller, Gábor Paulovits, Árpád Ferincz, Tibor Erős

Citation: Takács P., Vitál Z., Poller Z., Paulovits G., Ferincz Á., Erős T. (2012): Az amurgéb (*Perccottus glenii*) új lelőhelyei a Balaton vízgyűjtőjén. *Halászat* 105/3: 16.

CHINESE SLEEPER (*PERCCOTTUS GLENII*) IN THE HUNGARIAN SECTION OF THE ÉR STREAM

The Chinese sleeper is spreading in the River Basin Berettyó – according to the article published by László Antal and his colleagues in the Halászat (Fishing Magazine) (3-4th issue 2011) on the basis of their sampling in autumn 2010 and summer 2011. Further

evidence for this preading was confirmed on 30th April 2012, when I examined the dragonfly fauna by the limnological hand-net near Pocsaj in the small watercourse of Ér stream, and I have inadvertently managed to catch a specimen of Chinese sleeper.

The exact geographical site coordinates are: 47°17'1.24" N, 21°50'23.10" E. So it seems that expansion continues unabated and not remain a watercourse or stagnant water of the Tisza River Basin in Hungary, which would remain free of this adventive fish species.

The Stream Ér near Pocsaj: the new locality of Chinese sleeper (*Photo: Tibor Jakab*)

Tibor Jakab

Citation: Jakab T. (2012): Amurgéb (*Perccottus glenii*) az Ér hazai szakaszán. *Halászat* 105/3: 15.

DANUBE GUDGEON (*ROMANOGOBIO URANOSCOPUS*) ON THE HUNGARIAN REACH OF THE RIVER HERNÁD

Danube gudgeon (*Romanogobio uranoscopus*) is the rarest gudgeon species in Hungary, which can be explained by the fact that there are only few rivers with convenient habitat for this species. On the 3rd of November 2010 Nature 2000 fish species were investigated on the Hungarian, upper reach of the River Hernád with electric fishing gear. In the downstream of the river dam near Hernádszurdok, on the right bank of the river we were fishing in the 20-30 cm deep, transparent, flowing, gravel bottomed water. After a few minutes a little yellowish-brown fish drifted to our net because of the effect of electricity. After a thorough investigation we were very happy because the fish was an adult Danube gudgeon. The fish was put into a pet bottle temporarily, until we brought a camera to take an evidence picture.

After taking photos the fish was released to the river. Later four other adult individuals and 27 Kessler's gudgeons (*Romanogobio kessleri*) were also caught. Because of this result we also took samples 2 kilometers down the river, near Göncruszka, on the right bank of the river. On the similar habitat one more adult Danube gudgeon was caught. Next day the investigation was continued near Zsujta where we did not found this species. But near Gönc, on the left riverbank at Banga-meadow 5 adult individuals were caught. The presence of the gudgeons is very interesting, because in the September of 2006 not even Kessler's gudgeon were caught on the downstream of the dam in Hernádszurdok. Probably the gudgeons were drifted down by the flood in 2010 from our northern neighbours. It would be interesting to monitor the life of the population in the Hungarian reach of the River Hernád.

The first Danube gudgeon from Hernád River in Hungary (*Photo: Zoltán Sallai*)

Zoltán Sallai, Márton Sallai

Citation: Sallai Z., Sallai M. (2012): Felpillantó küllők (*Romanogobio uranoscopus*) a Hernád magyar szakaszán. *Halászat* 105/4: 16.

MASS OCCURRENCE OF BURBOT (*LOTA LOTA*) JUVENILES IN HOLT-TISZA BACKWATER AT TISZAFÜRED

On 8th June 2012 - before nightfishing - I made a survey of the Holt-Tisza backwater. When I paddled next to a leant willow, I noticed tiny fish juveniles as they were teeming among the saligot threads. At first sight they seemed to be catfish, but their shape was a bit slimmer. As I approached the swarm didn't flee away, nay they moved closer to the boat. I plunged my hand into the water, caught some specimens and observed them a bit closer. That amount of burbot in still water? I doubted it...

Burbot juvenile from the Holt-Tisza backwater at Tiszafüred (*Photo: Ákos Harka*)

We put one of these fish into an aquarium and observed it once again. The long second dorsal fin and the single barbel thread on the chin were visible. No doubt, burbot juveniles are swarming in the water. After we took a photo of this small fish, of course it was released into the backwater.

Recently, we could find the burbot in waters - such as Tarna or Ér - where previously the species was not observed. It would be worth to pay attention to this mysterious fish, seen by the anglers rather in the winter period, and to inspect whether the increase of the population and the expansion are temporary phenomenons or permanent tendencies.

László Szarvas

Citation: Szarvas L. (2012): Menyhalivadékok (*Lota lota*) tömeges jelenléte a Tiszafüredi-Holt-Tiszában. *Halászat* 105/4: 15.

STRIPED RUFFE *(GYMNOCEPHALUS SCHRAETSER)* REAPPEARED IN RIVER ZAGYVA AFTER 50 YEARS

Ottó Herman in 1887 was the first who mentioned our protected fish species, the striped ruffe from the Zagyva. In his unpublished manuscript (titled „Fishfauna of the Zagyva, dated in the early 1960-ies) István Vásárhelyi confirmed Herman's information writing „I found from Pásztó to Szolnok." Since that time the presence of the species was not mentioned in faunistical works. However after a half century on 27th June 2012 it was found once more in the river. In fact it was a single specimen caught in the section near the mouth at Szonok, nevertheless it is promising. Especially in we integrate it in a series of findings started in 2005 with the sterlet (2 specimens at Zagyvarékas), continued it 2007 with finding the zingel (1 at Jászberény), in 2011 with the barbel and the nase (1 of each at Szolnak), then

Striped ruffe from the Zagyva *(Harka Ákos felvétele)*

with an other zingel (below Zagyvarékas). Our hopes ae supported by the fact that 3 specimens of nase (first found in 2011) were also caught by our net. Reappearence of our fish species might be in connection with the improvement of water quality and the increasing oxygen level.

Zsolt Szepesi, Ákos Harka

Citation: Szepesi Zs., Harka Á. (2012): Ötven év után ismét megjelent a selymes durbincs (*Gymnocephalus schraetser*) a Zagyvában. *Halászat* 105/4: 15.

NEW AMUR SLEEPER (*PERCCOTTUS GLENII DYBOWSKI*, 1877) LOCALITY BESIDE THE HUNGARIAN LOWER DANUBE SECTION.

Two specimens of the highly adventivous amur sleeper (*Perccottus glenii* Dybowski, 1877) were found on 17. 09. 2012., during our field invetigations conduced at small lowland watercourses connected with the Hungarian Lower Danube section. The sampling site is localized on the Székesi-canal beside Kiskecskemégy settlemet in the Kalocsai-Sárköz region (coordinates: N46° 30' 19.98", E19° 3' 17.52"). This new locality is 150 air kilometers far to the North from the closest Danubian localtiy known hitherto. The isolated occurence of this species raises the opportunity of the accidental antropogenic introduction (by an unsupervised fish transfer) from the drainage of the River Tisza, where this species is distributed highly. Our assumption is reinforced by the fact that some kilometers from the new locality a fishpond can be found, from which these specimes might be escaped. Our study was supported by OTKA CNK80140 research fund.

Takács Péter, Vitál Zoltán

Citation: Takács P., Vitál Z. (2012): Amurgéb (*Perccottus glenii* Dybowski, 1877) a Duna mentén. *Halászat* 105/4: 16.

KESSLER'S GOBY (*PONTICOLA KESSLERI*) REAPPEARED AND PROLIFERATED IN THE RIVER IPEL/IPOLY

On 25th May 2012 we carried out a routine fish stock assessment in the River Ipel section between Szob and Ipolydamásd (2-3 rkm) for the Danube Research Institute of the Centre for Ecological Research of HAS. The low water level provided favorable sampling conditions for electrofishing, howewer, the catch was not considerable. We sampled 18 fish species on the 1 km long section. Among the collected fishes, there were 41 individuals of Kessler's goby (*Ponticola kessleri*). Their standard length varied between 28 and 55 mm. We collected gobies in the largest numbers on the rock banks under the railway bridge near Szob, but we caught this species from all the slowly flowing sections with gravelled and rocky riverbanks. This fish species was first registered from the

One of the Kessler's gobies caught in River Ipoly/Ipel
(*Photo: Imre Potyó*)

River Ipel near Szob in April 2004 by Slovak researchers. The recently observed large density makes it very likely that the goby species spreads to the upper section of the river. The massive proliferation of this goby may affect the population of other benthic fish species.

András Weiperth, Imre Potyó, Gábor Guti

Citation: Weiperth A., Potyó I., Guti G. (2012): Újból megjelent és elszaporodott az Ipolyban a Kessler-géb (*Ponticola kessleri*). *Halászat* 105/4: 16.