Identification and abundance of fishes in Kardeh Reservoir (Mashad, Iran)

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The identification of fish species and determination of their distribution and biological and ecological characteristics are very important for sustainable exploitation. This study has been done for fish identification and determination of their abundance in Kardeh Reservoir basin, Mashad in June 2015 and Feb. 2016. For this purpose, 3 stations for gill-netting, 4 stations for beach seining and 8 stations in river for electrofishing were selected and the fishes were caught with electrofishing gear, gill-net and 6 mm mesh size beach seine. The results on 2531 caught specimens and 520 studied specimens showed that 9 species from Cyprinidae and 2 species from Nemacheilidae families live in the studied area. They were identified as 5 exotic species, one introduced species and another 5 native or endemic fish. Capoeta heratensis with 61.3% in June 2015 and H. molitrix with 40.4% in Feb. 2016 were observed in Kardeh lake, using gill-net; Hemiculter leucisculus and Pseudorasbora parva with 52.8% and 27.3% respectively in June 2015 and H. leucisculus with 87.4% in Feb. 2016 were also observed in the lake, using beach seine. Paraschistura turcmenica and P. cristata with 33.3% and 22.5% respectively in June 2015 and the same fish with 54.7% and 21.2% in Feb. 2016 were observed in Kardeh River, using electroshocker.

Key words: *Fishes, Distribution, Abundance, Kardeh Reservoir, Mashhad.*