

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF TWO CO-OCCURRING ENDEMIC CYPRINID FISH
SPECIES INHABITING UPPER TRIBUTARIES OF MAHAWELI RIVER

by

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Reproductive biology of two threatened endemic species, Barbus cumingi Gunther and B. nigrofasciatus Gunther, were studied in a tributary of Mahaweli river at Ginigathhena (Kandy district) over a period of 15 months. Both species breed throughout the year but the breeding activity is somewhat reduced during the main rainy season of September to December. Eggs of a wide range of sizes were present in both species in all months indicating continuous reproduction. Variations of sex ratio, gonadal development, fecundity, etc., over the months and other aspects of reproductive biology such as the length at first maturity, egg deposition, etc., are discussed.