

ORL-EB&C-14**Taxonomic Diversity of Genus *Tor* in Kali Gandaki River, Nepal**

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Tor species is a member of the family Cyprinidae, which is widely recognized as game fish inhabiting in fresh water ecosystem. The study was conducted in Kaligandaki River from Setibeni to Ridi. The aim of this study is to explore the taxonomic diversity, morphometric and meristic characters of Genus *Tor* (Gray, 1834) of Kali Gandaki River, Nepal. Thirty-four (34) *Tor* species were captured from five different sites of Kali Gandaki River. 35 morphometric and 5 meristic characteristics of Genus *Tor* were also examined. On the basis of morphometric and meristic count, only *Tor putitora* was identified using identification keys and references.

The study examined the relationship between body metrics such as total length, head length, and standard length. All morphometric characteristics showed a positive correlation with head length, standard length, and total length. Meristic counts were almost identical to different sites of *Tor putitora* of Kali Gandaki River. The results of this study may be useful in management and conservation of population of *Tor putitora* in Kali Gandaki River which is listed in IUCN Red List of Endangered species. In five distinct locations along the Kali Gandaki River, thirty four (34) *Tor* species were determined as *Tor putitora* (Fig 1).

This study concluded that *T. putitora* was identified from all sampling sites and also found positive relationship between different morphometrics characters with total length (Fig 2), standard length and head length which shows isometric pattern of the growth. Meristic counts were found same in all individuals. The regression shows the proportional changes in different variables with respect to the total length. The findings of this research is useful for further study as well as conservation strategy of *Tor*.

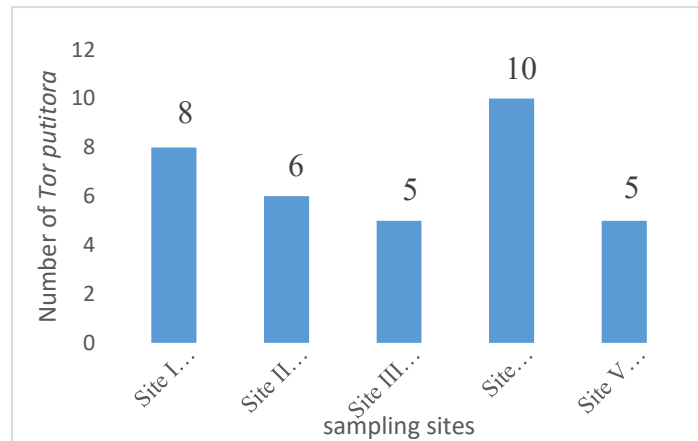
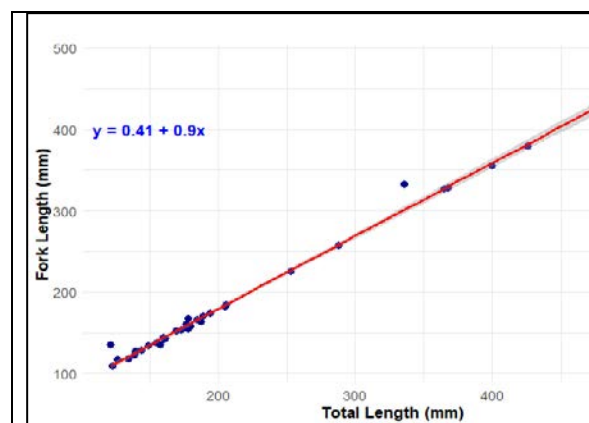
Figure 1: Number of *Tor putitora* in different sites

Figure 2: Relationship between Fork length (FL) and Total length (TL)