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EVALUATION OF THE CHARACTERS OF EGGS AND LARVAE

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Aim: To evaluate the characters of fish eggs and larvae.

The following characters may be evaluated in relation to the stage of development:

(A) Eggs:

(i) Total diameter.

(ii) Yolk diameter.

(iii) Extent of perivitelline space.

(iv) Pattern of pigmentation on the embryo, yolk, oilglobule.

(v) Ornamentation on the chorion.

(B) Larvae and Postlarvae

(i) Number and disposition of myomeres.

(ii) Stage of developmental features in relation to the length of the specimen.

(iii) Pattern of pigmentation.

(iv) Origin of various fins.

(v) Bifurcation of caudal fin.

(vi) Appearance of rays and spines in fins and the variations in their number.

(vii) Relative position of dorsal, anal, pelvic and pectoral fins in relation to the length of the
specimen and the stage of development.

(C) Juveniles:

All the morphometric, meristic and colouration pattern of the specimen, as applied in ichthyotaxonomy (vide Practical, IV) are to be taken in to account.