

# Preface

There are over 1 300 species of cyprinids in Asia, and these are utilized by people for food (capture fisheries and aquaculture) and as ornamental species. For people in many parts of Asia, cyprinids form an integral part of their livelihoods, as subsistence or commercial fishers, hatchery operators, nursery operators, seed traders, ongrowers, middlemen, fish sellers, consumers, or producers of ornamental species. The habitats of many of these species are also increasingly threatened by human activities. It is thus vital that we protect this part of our biodiversity, since it sustains human populations as well as having its own intrinsic value.

While there are over 1300 cyprinids species, presently only few of them are used in aquaculture and the potential of many other species in aquaculture is yet to be assessed. Fifteen species are of major aquaculture importance to the countries in Asia and contributed 49 per cent of aquaculture production in the region in 2001.

This publication focuses on cyprinid species that are bred in hatcheries and used in aquaculture and restocking activities. Introduced and threatened species of cyprinids in Asia are also discussed. We are well aware that we have not covered many other cyprinid species that are utilized by people in Asia in various ways: wild species in capture fisheries, self-recruiting species in aquaculture ponds and other water bodies, and aquarist species.

The species nomenclature given in this publication follows that of FishBase (<http://www.fishbase.org>) and further information on the species dealt with here can be found in this database.

Lastly, the Editors would like to thank the Asian Development Bank for funding the project that led to this publication, and the many people who provided research results and hard-to-find references that are included here.

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