钟圳 SHOU - Ichthyology 4/15/2018

Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*)



The Mozambique tilapia (Oreochromis mossambicus) is a tilapiine cichlid fish native to the coastal regions and the lower reaches of rivers in southern Africa, from the Zambezi River delta to Bushman River in the eastern Cape. It is known as black tilapia in Colombia and as blue kurper in South Africa. Due to human introductions, it is now found in many tropical and subtropical habitats around the globe, where it can become an invasive species because of its robust nature. Dull colored, the Mozambique tilapia often lives up to a decade in its native habitats. These same features make it a good species for aquaculture because it readily adapts to new situations. However, in Guangdong of China, the Mozambique tilapiahas becomes a serious invasive species, breaking the local ecological balance and ecological environment. And the Mozambique tilapiahas has few natural enemies, so it's hard for us to control the number and protect the the local specieses. I just want to find some good ways to solve the problems.

The Mozambique tilapia belongs to the group of fish which is the ray-finned fishes, order Perciformes.

The length of the body of maturity is ranging from 6 to 28 centimeters. The max length of male is 39.0 centimeters. The common length is 35.0 centimeters. The max weight is up to 1.13 kilograms. The oldest age reported is 11 years. The Mozambique tilapia have some features. The dorsal spines in total is 15 to 18. Dorsal soft rays in total is 10 to 13. And the anal soft rays is 7 to 12. It has 28 to 31 vertebrae and a long snout. The forehead with relatively large scales, starting with 2 scales between the eyes followed by 9 scales up to the dorsal fin. In addition, It has 3 anal spines and 14 to 20 lower gill-rakers.

Original description

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