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FIRST RECORD OF THE NORTHERN STUDFISH, FUNDULUS CATENATUS (CYPRINODONTIDAE, PISCES), IN ILLINOIS

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The first record in Illinois of *Fundulus catenatus* (Storer) 1846, is reported.

The range of the northern studfish, *F. catenatus* (Storer) 1846, is the "upland tributaries of the Tennessee, Cumberland, and Green Rivers in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and Alabama; clear streams of the Ozark region in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas; Red River tributaries in southwestern Arkansas; the Homochetto River in Mississippi; and the upper part of the east fork of White River, Indiana" (Moore, 1968). In Missouri it is one of the most common and widely distributed Ozark stream fishes (Pflieger, 1971). It occurs disjunctly in clear sand and gravel bottom streams ultimately tributary to the Mississippi River.

In July, 1973, a single female specimen (6.09 cm total length), was collected with an 8-meter minnow seine from the Cape Bend side channel of the Mississippi River (River Border Mile 48L, Alexander County, Illinois). Classical scale analysis indicates the specimen is of the 0 age group. Northern studfish were not found at the same site in 1972. The habitat at the collection site is atypical for the northern studfish, and it remains to be seen if populations will become established in Illinois streams.

Thomerson (1969) predicted that the Ozark population in Missouri would eventually cross the Mississippi River into Illinois. Smith (1965) included *F. catenatus* as a hypothetical addition to the fish fauna of Illinois, but he does not include it in his 1973 key (Smith, n.d.). In Smith's 1973 key, *F. catenatus* would key out in couplet 133 as *F. diaphanus*. However, *F. diaphanus* has approximately 20 vertical stripes, whereas *F. catenatus* has numerous parallel horizontal streaks.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The specimen was collected by Army Corps of Engineers personnel of the Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi. Dr. Jamie E. Thomerson, Faculty of Biological Science, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois, confirmed the identity of the specimen.

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