



## **Morphometric and Meristic features Variability among Carp (*Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus, 1758) Populations in Three Different Lakes in Albania**

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**Abstract:** Along years 2010 and 2011 in three different lakes in Albania have been studied the morphometric and meristic features of carp populations (*Cyprinus carpio* L., 1758). No significant differences have been proved among morphometric and meristic features among the three studied populations. Carp populations of Shkodra and Prespa Lake were composed from individuals having smaller body size for the same group-ages, compared with Belshi lake population. Comparing the ratio values between zoological length and maximal body height (TL/MaxBH) has shown that fishes of Belshi Lake have smaller value of this ratio compared with the two other populations. Certain indicators show similar numerical values, what indicates their conservative character. In general such indicators are included in the category of morphometric ratios, analysis of which introduces primary importance for distinguishing different taxonomic groups inside the same kind. From analysis realized from the three carp populations, indicators that showed high level of conservation were ratios HdL/SL (or the opposite), L1L/SL and MinBH/SL. Variability of studied ratio values might be result of the influence of two factors; geographical isolation and hybridisation. The first factors seems to have had similar impact in the three populations involved in the analysis, meanwhile the second factor may have had big impact in the Shkodra Lake population because of high chances of crossing among local recognized form as "Shkodra carp" with the improved forms of this kind which have been delivered in the lake in the frame of repopulation prog

**Key words:** *Carp, populations, Lakes of Prespa, Belshi, morphometric, meristic*

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