

Intraspecific variation in morphology and osteology in *Puntius sarana* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)

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Intra-specific morphological variation and differentiation among four geographic populations of the freshwater fish *Puntius sarana* (Cyprinidae) were investigated. Significant sexual dimorphism was found only in body depth (BD) where the females were broader than males, yet BD didn't significantly vary among the population samples. Univariate ANOVA detected significant heterogeneity and differentiation in four morphometric characters (head length, eye diameter, inter-orbital width IOW, and finbase length of the dorsal fin). Discriminant function analysis detected IOW having the greatest power to discriminate the four populations. Significant separation of the four populations was possible by canonical analysis, where the first two canonical variates (CV) explained 96.5% of the total variation in data. Cranial and caudal skeleton of *Puntius sarana* was examined for osteological variation in fish from six locations. Apparent and consistent variation was found in the rudimentary neural arch and pharyngeal bones of Pattiayapola population, size of the parhypural foramen of Pattiayapola and Vakwella populations, opposite curvature of cranial bones in Pattiayapola, Godapitiya and