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KOZA (*Cobitis taenia* Linnaeus, 1758) – CO NAPRAWDĘ CHIRONIMY ?
METODY CYTOGENETYCZNE JAKO NARZĘDZIE
ROZPOZNAWANIA NIEKTÓRYCH GATUNKÓW RYB

THE SPINED LOACH (*Cobitis taenia* Linnaeus, 1758)
– WHAT IS REALLY PROTECTED?
CYTOGENETICAL METHODS AS A TOOL OF RECOGNISING
SOME OF THE FISH SPECIES

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ABSTRACT

The spined loach *Cobitis taenia*, endangered and protected species in Poland, considered the only representative of the genus *Cobitis* in our ichthyofauna for a long time. Cytogenetical investigations of Polish populations of *C. taenia* revealed that they consisted of distinct species: *C. taenia* ($2n = 48$) and *C. elongatoides* Bacescu et Maier, 1969 ($2n = 50$) and nine other different chromosomal forms. Most of these forms were triploids females of $3n = 74$ chromosomes. Three other triploids and four different tetraploids were found.

The banding chromosomal study by silver staining, chromomycine CMA₃ and C-banding revealed that seven polyploid forms and one diploid were of hybrid origin. The results seem to confirm that some of the polyploids could origin from diploid hybrids between *C. taenia* and *C. elongatoides*. At least one additional, unknown *Cobitis* fish species was recognised as another parental fish species of polyploid forms.

Presented results revealed that more than one species of *Cobitis* is distributed in Poland. The species of *C. elongatoides* and other *Cobitis* forms also ought to be protected. Further monitoring studies are required to recognise the chromosomal structure of *Cobitis* populations and detect pure populations of *Cobitis taenia*.