

Fish Myology

There is an ample literature dealing with function and structure of fish muscle. A wide range of approaches are used by different scientists to improve knowledge in this important biological field for pure and applied science. In the present hot *Basic and Applied Myology* issue on Fish Myology, only a small part of this wide subject has been covered. In particular some topics have been included e.g.: myosin structure, expression of myofibrillar proteins and parvalbumin, effect of endurance exercise on fast muscle, motor innervation of lateral muscle, relationship between muscle growth and flesh quality.

Preparing this issue, we should not forget to mention some pioneers of fish myosin biochemistry: J.J. Connell (Aberdeen), G. Hamoir (Liege) who we met during international meetings or research exchanges. In particular we would like to mention Alba Veggetti, our professor of histochemistry and anatomy, who organized the Italian Group on fish muscle. We also have to thank the CNR Unit for Muscle Biology and Physiopathology in Padova, especially Luciano Dalla Libera who is an invaluable source of help and support, even at short notice. One of the Guest Editors was used to live close to a wonderful river (the Sile) containing many kinds of fish from grayling at its source to grey mullet at the estuary. Hours and days were spent with parental encouragement observing these aquatic vertebrates in their natural environment, and occasionally taking some to make a good inexpensive meal. This formative experience was probably what convinced the editors that behind the macroscopic diversity of the different fish there was something much more fascinating: small and big proteins, red and white fibres, special vessels and nerves. Whereas we now know a lot about the anatomy and behaviour of these fish, the richness of the molecular world, no doubt, still contains many surprises for the future. Last but not least, we would like to thank all the authors who have contributed to this volume, and hope that readers will be encouraged to contribute to this field in the future.

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