

## Status of



The aim of this research was to assess the distribution, abundance and growth of the non-native topmouth gudgeon *Pseudorasbora parva* that was recorded for the first time in the Tiber River Basin (central Italy) in 1994. The competitive interaction of *P. parva* with four native fish species was also investigated. The study area comprised 92 watercourses of the Umbrian section of the Tiber River Basin. Demographic and environmental data were collected during the period 1990–2014 in 171 sampling sites. The results of this study showed a wide distribution of *P. parva* in the study area, with records from 23.39% of all sampling sites (40 out of 171). This species inhabits the downstream reaches, where the presence of many non-native species and the poor environmental quality are associated with a decrease in native fish species. A total of 5570 specimens of *P. parva* were collected and five age classes (0+ to 4+) were identified. The equation for the total length-weight relationship of *P. parva* was  $W = 0.021TL^{2.673 \pm 0.015}$ . For the chub *Squalius squalus*, the Tiber barbel, *Barbus tyberinus*, and the roach, *Rutilus rubilio*, the average values of the relative weight were significantly higher in the sites where *P. parva* was absent. The results of the present study suggest the need to undertake proper strategies for native biodiversity conservation.

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