

## — USE AND EFFECT OF FREEZE BRANDING ON ROACH (RUTILUS RUTILUS L.) .



We tested the effects of freeze branding on growth, survival and mark retention in roach *Rutilus rutilus* L. (82-268 mm in total length). Markings were applied at two positions on the skin: (1) the depressed area above the anal fin, (2) the muscles above the lateral line and between the caudal and dorsal fins. A control group received no mark. The experiment duration was 30 days, and 120 roach were selected and distributed into three lots. Retention rates were high and ranged between 94% for position 2 and 100% for position 1. Survival rate after 1 month was 87% for freeze branded roach at position 2, 90% for position 1 and 92% for unmarked fish. These differences were not statistically significant. A significant decrease of linear growth was observed for individuals marked at position 2 (3.2 mm.month<sup>-1</sup>), but the implication of the brand itself was unclear. We discuss the short- and long-term properties of freeze branding techniques on roach.

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