CHAPTER III

TAXONOMIC STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF LABEO GONIUS
3. TAXONOMIC STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION PATTERN 
AND VERNACULAR NAMES OF LABEO GONIUS

3.1 Taxonomic status of Labeo gonius:

Labeo gonius was first reported by Hamilton Buchanan in the year 1822 in his book *Fishes of Ganges* and named as *Cyprinus Curchius* and later on named as *Cyprinus gonius*. (Ham. Buch. “Fishes of Ganges” pp 289,290, 292, 387).

Consequently this fish was given different names by various workers. The changes in taxonomic status of the fish are cited as follows (Day, 1878) McClelland, 1839 reported the fish as *Cirrhinus gonius* (McClelland., 1839: Ind. Cyp. Pp 266, 325.).

The fish was again named as *Cyprinus (Labeo) curchius* and then as *cursis* by the same author (McClelland., 1839: Ind. Cyp. Pp 268,327,329, pl.40. f 3, pl.38.).

In the year 1842 the fish was mentioned as *Rohita gonius* and *cursis* (Cuv and Val.1842: Xvi, pp 259,265.).

Then, Bleeker reported it as *Labeo chalybeata* in the year 1853. (Bleeker, 1853: Beng. En. Hind. p133).


Subsequently, the fish was reported as *Labeo gonius*: Day, 1878: Proc. Zool. Soc. 1869.p 372.

Thereafter, the fish has retained its name as *Labeo gonius*. 

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Plate 1: *Labeo gonius* (Male and Female)

[A] *Labeo gonius* (Mature Male)

[B] *Labeo gonius* (Mature Female)
3.2 Systematic position of *Labeo gottius*:

The systematic position of the fish *Labeo gottius* (Plate.2) has been presented here based on the systematic position allotted to the fish according to Berg, 1940. Different authors have suggested different system of classification but the Berg, 1940 classification has been universally accepted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phylum</th>
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<td>Cyprininae</td>
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<td>Genus</td>
<td><em>Labeo</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>gottius</em></td>
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3.2 Diagnostic Characters (Shaw and Shebbcare, 1937; Talwar and Jhingran, 1991):

The body is elongated and its dorsal profile is more convex than the ventral. The Snout slightly projects beyond the mouth. It is without lateral lobe and studded with numerous pores. The size of the eyes is moderate and not visible from underside of the head. Mouth is narrow and sub inferior with thick lips and fringed with a distinct inner fold in their circumference. Two pairs of very short barbells are present (rostral and maxillary). Dorsal fin inserted nearer to snout-tip than to base of caudal fin. Pectoral fins are about as long as the head.
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Caudal fin deeply forked, with pointed lobes. Scales are small. Lateral line with 71 to 84 scales; lateral line transverse scale rows 9 to 13 between the lateral line and pelvic fin base. Colour: in life, greenish-black on back, become dull white on flanks and belly; scale darkest at their margins and several scales with red lunules giving the impression of faint longitudinal lines.

3.2 Distribution pattern of *Labeo gonius*:

*Labeo gonius* is distributed throughout India with its abundance in Northeastern region of India; Pakistan; Afghanistan and Nepal (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991); Myanmar (Khin, 1948); Bangladesh (Rahman, 1989).

3.3 Natural habitat:

The fish *Labeo gonius* predominantly a lotic water species. It inhabits rivers but also dwells in streams and other running water bodies. The fish can be domesticated and reared in confined freshwater body where they grow well and become sexually mature. The fish is a bottom feeder by nature and feeds on detritus and insects etc found in the bottom.

3.4 Natural spawning habits:

*Labeo gonius* naturally spawns during the southwest monsoon like Indian Major Carps. But it does not normally breed in ponds or any stagnant water. Artificial breeding is possible through hypophysation. (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991). The fish can be cultured in ponds and paddy fields along with other carp species. Usually the fish spawn within the temperature range of 24 °C – 30 °C like other Indian major carps.
3.5 Common names of *Labeo gonius*

*Labeo gonius* is known by different names in different parts of its occurrence. Some vernacular names of the fish are mentioned below. (Day, 1878; Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

- Kurhi, Courie and Bahtoor: Assamese (India)
- Kuria, Ghania and Goni: Bengali (India)
- Khaski: Khasi (India)
- Mosso: Telugu (India)
- Cursua: Oriya (India)
- Cursa and Colloose: Hindi (India)
- Cir-reoh: Sind (India and Pakistan)
- Ghania or Ghaninna: Bangladesh
- Kursa or Gurdi: Nepal
- Nga-deir (Nga-dare) and Nga-hoo: Myanmar