

Redbreast Sunfish

Reference #: LM_2



Collection and Diversity:

This Redbreast sunfish was captured in a headwater stream in Little Mulberry Park located in Gwinnett County Georgia. A sample was collected from its tail, and it was released back into the water. The Shannon H' diversity value for this stream was found to be 1.474 given the data we collected. From this number, we can assume that there is low species diversity in this area.

Taxonomic Information:

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Perciformes

Family: Centrarchidae

Genus: *Lepomis*

Species: *L. auritus*

Morphological Characteristics:

The Redbreast sun fish has a flattened body. The sides of their bodies are pressed together which makes them thinner. They are also shorter and rounder than other sunfish. They are typically anywhere from 4-10 inches long with a long dorsal fin. Redbreast sunfish are usually bright and colorful, and their breast and belly are typically orange or red. The males are usually brighter in color especially during breeding season.

Basic Ecology:

Redbreast sunfish are found in freshwater environments typically in slow-moving water. They breed in the early summer. Males build and protect nests until the eggs hatch. They consume insects and zooplankton. Redbreast sunfish can be prey to larger fish and predators for small aquatic organisms. They also co-exist with other fish species like bluegills and creek chubs. Redbreast sunfish are often sought after by sport fishers.

DNA Sequence

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NCCCCTTCTTCTTTCTTCCCTTANCAAGTAATAGAAGACTGGTGCATGAGCCGGAATGGTAGGCA
CAGCTTTTAAGCCTACTAATAACGAGCAGAGCTCAGTCAACCAGGCGCCCTCCTCGGAGACGACC
AGATTTACAATGTTATCGTAACAGCACATGCATTTGTAATAATTTTCTTTATAGTGATACCAAT
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CCCGAATGAACAACATAAGCTTTTGACTCCTTCCCCCTCTTCCTCCTTCTCCTTGCCTCCTCCG
GAGTCGAAGCCGGGGCTGGCACAGGTTGAACCGTCTATCCCCCTCTCGCCGGCAACCTCGCCCAT
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TTCCGGGAAGAAA
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