

Kelly Sisson

Common Name and Species Number: Bluegill_LM4_F23

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Perciformes

Family: Centrarchidae

Genus: *Lepomis*

Species: *L. macrochirus*

Collection Location: Little Mulberry Park in Gwinnett County, Dacula, GA (34.040897, -83.890187) in Fall of 2023.

Shannon H' Value: 1.473779891



Morphological Characteristics: *Lepomis Macrochirus* typically has blue and purple on the face and gill cover, dark olive-colored bands down the side, and an orange to yellow stomach. The black spot on either side of the posterior edge of the gills and base of the dorsal fins are distinctive features to help identify the Bluegill. They can grow up to 12 inches long and weigh as much as 4 and a half pounds.

Habitat: Bluegills naturally reside east of the Rocky Mountains, however today they have been introduced nearly everywhere else in North America, Europe, Africa, Zimbabwe, Asia, and South America. They prefer shallow waters of lakes, ponds, streams, creeks, and rivers that have plenty of aquatic plants for them to hide in.

Reproduction: The male Bluegill will scoop out a nest in the sand, protecting the site until a female Bluegill comes. He will circle her while omitting a grunting noise. She will then enter the nest with him, and they will circle each other. They will touch their bellies together while in the upright position. He will chase her out of the nest, then his sperm will mix with her eggs externally in the water.

Species Interaction: Bluegills are subject to predation by numerous other fish species. Immature bluegills fall prey to northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, crappie, yellow perch, and even adult bluegills. When they reach maturity, however, they are safe from most aquatic predators because their bodies are too deep.

DNA Sequence:

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GGCCCGTTTTTTTTCCTTTCNTTTTCATAGCNAATGNNTATTCGGGTGGCATTGAAGCCCGTGTANNAGTTGGCGTAC
GGCCTCTTAAGCTTACTTCATAACGAGACAGTAGACTTCAGACTCAATCTCAGAGTCGTCTTCTTTCTTGGGCGTACG
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GTTCTGATTCTTCGGTCACCTGAAATGTCAATTTTTTTTTTTTCTTGGGAAACTTTTCTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTGTTTT
TTTTTTTTTTTATGTTTTTTTTTTTTTCTC
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References:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bluegill>. 17 October 2023. 9 November 2023.