

24 March 2021

**PRAMOD KUMAR PANDEY, Ph.D.**

Editor-in-Chief

*Journal of Fisheries Science*

Dear **Dr. PRAMOD KUMAR PANDEY,**

We wish to submit an original article for publication in *Journal of Fisheries Science*, titled "Occurrence of *Anguilla luzonensis* in the tributaries along Lagonoy Gulf, Philippines." This manuscript was co-authored by Plutomeo M. Nieves, Antonino B. Mendoza Jr., John Christopher C. Nolial, Niño C. Celestial, Ronnie O. Mediaro, Raul G. Bradecina, Teresa N. Avila, and Satoshi Kubota.

In this study, we aimed to investigate the occurrence of *Anguilla luzonensis* recruiting in the tributaries along the Lagonoy Gulf using molecular analysis. This is the first report on the occurrence of *A. luzonensis* using molecular techniques and the findings on its abundance in this region. We believe that our study makes a significant contribution to the literature due to the limited information on *A. luzonensis*, hence, may be used as a basis for monitoring and crafting strategies for resource management.

This manuscript has not been published or presented elsewhere in part or in entirety and is not under consideration by another journal. All authors approved the manuscript and agreed with its submission to the *Journal of Fisheries Science*. This study was part of the Eel Fishery Project funded by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST- PCAARRD). All samples collected were under the Gratuitous Permit No. 0173-19 issued by Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA - BFAR).

All the authors made significant contributions for the manuscript. **Katrina L. Canon:** conceptualization, investigation, formal analysis, writing – original draft ; **Plutomeo M. Nieves, Antonino B. Mendoza Jr and Raul G. Bradecina** - funding acquisition, conceptualization, writing - review and editing; **John Christopher C. Nolial, Niño C. Celestial, Ronnie O. Mediaro**- investigation, resources, writing - review and editing; **Teresa N. Avila** - investigation; **Satoshi Kubota**- conceptualization, supervision, investigation, formal analysis, resources, writing – review and editing;

We have read and understood your journal's policies, and we believe that neither this manuscript does not violates any of the policies.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

  
**KATRINA L. CANON**

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