1. INTRODUCTION

Black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*) is a large and fast growing cyprinid, native to the southern regions of China. Black carp mature at the age of 7 to 9 years in subtropics (e.g. Egypt) which is 3 to 5 years earlier than in china. Mature fish require water and special food prior to artificial, hormonally induced reproduction.

In nature, Juvenile and adult black carp feed exclusively on molluscs; thus it has a great potential as a biological control of nuiance snails and bivalves. In preliminary experiments carried out in aquaria, black carp yearlings of 20-50g easily shifted from artificial pelletized food to its natural diet of *Bulinus sp.* Black carp stocked into the open reservoirs of the Israeli National water carrier (Rothbard et al., 1996) almost totally eradicated fresh water snails (*Bulinus,* Lymnea, *Melanopsis* and *Melanin spp* and bivalves *(Corbicula SP.).*

Since the black carp is an effective mollusc predator, it can be considered for biocontrol of mollusc, that serve as intermediate host for human parasites (e.g. Schistosoma), or parasites relevant to fish culture, such as the yellow and white grubs in channel catfish and stripe bass farming.

Introduction of exotic species is becoming increasingly, regulated by governmental authorities to prevent biological and

ecological contamination of the environment. Evaluating the introduction of an exotic fish, as the black carp in an "ecologically save manner" can involve several options for reproductive manipulation. These include gynogenesis followed by hormonal sex-inversion, or the production of sterile triploids (Rothbard et al., 1996).

The aim of the present study is to investigate the effect of some factors affecting success of the reproduction of black carp such as location, year and fish body weight.