

RESEARCH NOTES

FISHES OF CLEAR CREEK, TRIBUTARY TO ROCKCASTLE RIVER, KENTUCKY

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Clear Creek and its headwater tributaries (Todd Branch and Hammond's Fork), tributary to the Rockcastle River, consisting of first through fourth order streams (Kuehne, 1962), is entirely in Rockcastle County, Kentucky. The headwaters lie at approximately 1,200 feet mean sea level whereas the mouth is at 900 feet. The stream is scarcely 10 air-miles in length, and slightly less than 20 stream miles. As typical of undisturbed Kentucky streams, the water is of high quality, presenting a fairly varied habitat for fishes. Thus, there is a readily available example of longitudinal succession

FISHES OF CLEAR CREEK

Species marked by an asterisk were not reported by Woolman

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Lampetra aepyptera</i> *			1						
<i>Camptostoma anomalum</i>	12	198	35	17	45	16	82	91	2
<i>Ericymba buccata</i> *		54	56	20	1	12	28	21	1
<i>Pimephales notatus</i>	18	81	120	7	73	26	50	51	47
<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i> *	124	105	29	2	8		8	13	2
<i>Notropis galacturus</i>		3	26	61	32		43	45	7
<i>Notropis volucellus</i> *			12	1	9		5	8	1
<i>Notropis ardens</i> *		16	306		156		123	221	60
<i>Notropis chrysocephalus</i>	14	86	148	10	68	26	29	42	29
<i>Phoxinus erythrogaster</i> *	40	18	1	2	3	2			
<i>Hybopsis amblops</i> *			11				2		1
<i>Cyprinus carpio</i> *						1			3
<i>Hybognathus nuchalis</i> *			1						
<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>	18	4	20	6	11	10			
<i>Moxostoma macrolepidotum</i> *			4	3			1		
<i>Moxostoma duquesnei</i>			3				3	5	
<i>Moxostoma erythrurum</i> *			10				2	1	2
<i>Hypentelium nigricans</i>		3	11	1	5		2	6	3
<i>Catostomus commersoni</i> *	1	2				1	1		1
<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i> *					2		9	4	1
<i>Micropterus punctulatum</i> *						1			1
<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>			3	1	2	2	6	2	
<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i> *		1	1		1	1	1		7
<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i> *						2		1	15
<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>			2	8	20	29	4	1	28
<i>Percina caprodes</i>					1	1			
<i>Percina maculata</i> *						3	2		
<i>Etheostoma blennioides</i> *				1	3			2	
<i>Etheostoma flabellare</i> *		3	13	11	22	1	1		
<i>Etheostoma caeruleum</i> *	4	14	13	14	38	22	16	5	
<i>Etheostoma virgatum</i> *	2	8	9	6	16	1	1	1	1
Emerald darter*		2	1		1	1	2	6	
<i>Cottus bairdi</i> *				1					

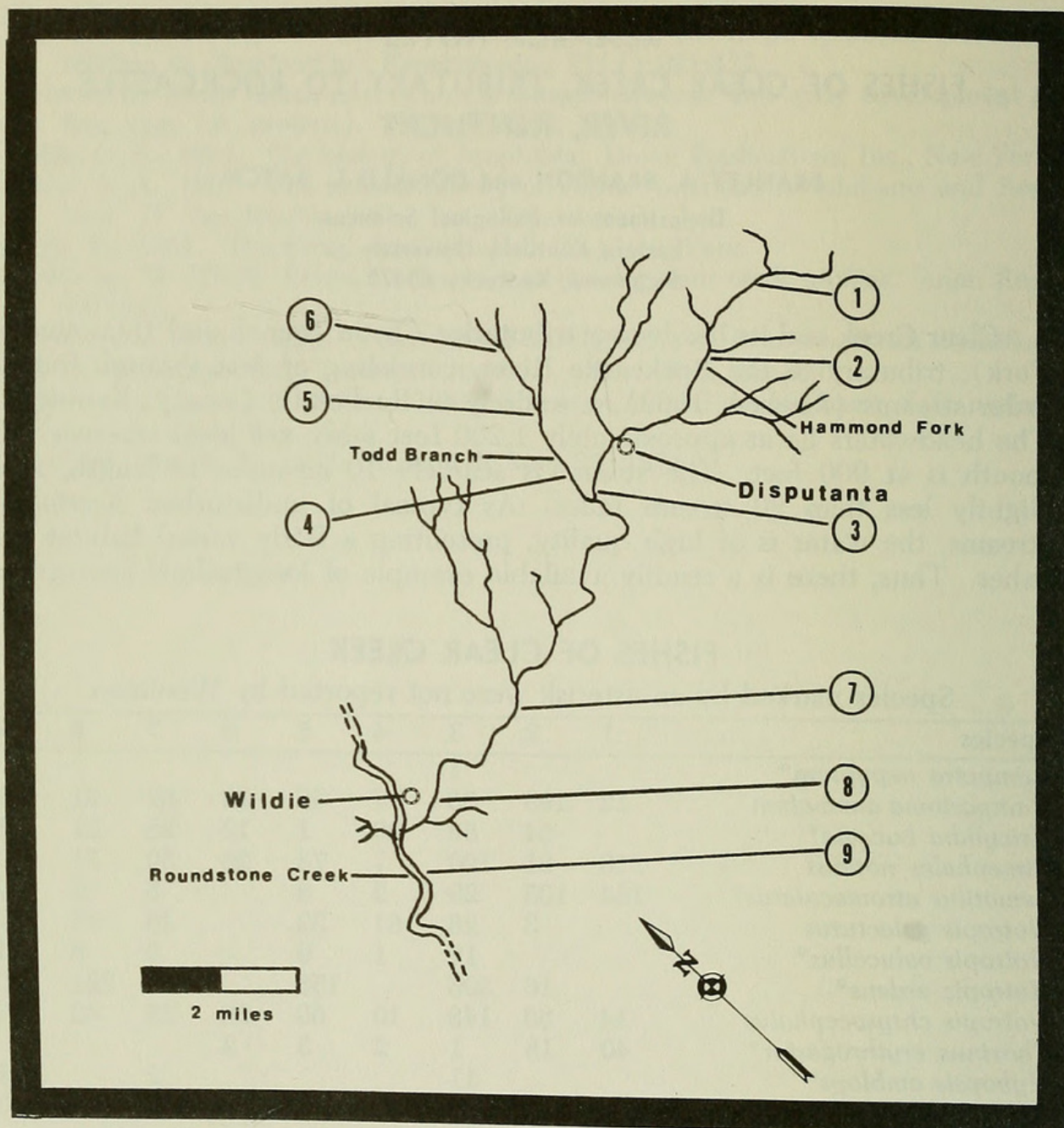


Figure 1. Clear Creek Drainage, Rockcastle County, Kentucky, showing collecting sites (1-9).

in the tradition of Horton (1945), Kuehne (1962), and Sheldon (1968) for field exercises. The authors have been utilizing the drainage for this purpose since 1966, and the data presented here were accumulated during that time.

Clear Creek is also historically important, since the harelip sucker *Lagochila lacera*, now considered extinct, was reported to be abundant in the stream by Woolman (1892). Woolman's collecting site was essentially the same as our Station 7. In addition to the harelip sucker, Woolman recorded the following species: *Campostoma anomalum*, *Pimephales notatus*, *Notropis chrysocephalus*, *N. whipplei*, *N. galacturus*, *N. umbratilis cynanosephalus*, *N. boops*, *Nocomis micropogon*, *Hypentelium nigricans*, *Moxostoma duquesnei*, *Lepomis megalotis*, *Micropterus dolomieu*, and *Percina caprodes*. He probably erred in reporting *Notropis whipplei* and *N. umbratilis*, however, since our rather extensive collections have not disclosed

these species. The records were likely based on *N. galacturus* and *N. ardens*, respectively. Our list contains 24 species missed by Woolman.

Branson (1970) discussed five specimens of *Lampetra aepyptera* from a site near our present Station 5.

This report, then, includes records for 4 orders, 6 families, 20 genera, and 33 species of fishes. These specimens were secured in successive years, from 1966 through 1971, one collection at each station during each year, primarily during the second and third weeks of October. In the list, the numbers represent the composite collections for each site (Fig. 1), thus giving the reader a rough idea of relative abundance. The reader should observe, for the purpose of showing longitudinal succession, that Stations 1 and 6 are comparable, as are Stations 2 and 5, and 3 and 4.

LITERATURE CITED

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