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## Genetic variation for growth at one and two summers of age in the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio* L.): Heritability estimates and response to selection

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### ► To cite this version:

Marc Vandeputte, Martin Kocour, Stéphane Mauger, Marek Rodina, Amandine Launay, et al.. Genetic variation for growth at one and two summers of age in the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio* L.): Heritability estimates and response to selection. *Aquaculture*, 2008, 277 (1-2), pp.7-13. 10.1016/j.aquaculture.2008.02.009 . hal-04302485

**HAL Id: hal-04302485**

**<https://hal.science/hal-04302485>**

Submitted on 23 Nov 2023

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1 **Genetic variation for growth at one and two summers of age in**  
2 **the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio* L.): Heritability estimates**  
3 **and response to selection**

4  
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15 **Abstract:**

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17 We estimated the heritability of growth-related traits (weight and length at ages one summer, first spring and  
18 two summers) in a synthetic mirror carp strain (HSM) in the Czech Republic. The four generation pedigree was  
19 obtained from parentage assignment of three factorial mating designs with microsatellite markers, and included  
20 195 fish without phenotypes (48 G0, 147 G1) and 1321 fish with phenotypes (674 G2, 647 G3). Animal model  
21 heritability estimates over generations were in the range  
22 0.21–0.33 for length and in the range 0.31–0.44 for weight. The genetic correlation between length and weight  
23 was high (0.97). The correlations between growth measurements in the first and in the second summer of age  
24 were moderate to low (0.34–0.67). Divergent selection for length at two  
25 summers of age was performed on G2 fish, and response to selection was evaluated by comparing  
26 the offspring of the selected sires in G3, in a communal test where genetic groups were identified by microsatellite  
27 parentage assignment. The response to upwards selection was moderate and indicated a realized heritability value  
28 of 0.24 to 0.34. No response to downwards selection was observed. We conclude that although selection for growth  
29 seems to be feasible in common carp, it would be a long- term process before results are visible.

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32 **Keywords:** Common carp; *Cyprinus carpio*; Heritability; Growth; Selection; Selection response; Realized  
33 heritability; Parentage assignment; Microsatellites; Performance; Quantitative genetics

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## 35 **1. Introduction**

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38 The common carp, *Cyprinus carpio*, is a major fish species in world aquaculture production (FAO,  
39 2003) cultured exclusively under traditional extensive or semi-intensive pond management, where fish growth is  
40 highly dependent (50 % and more) on natural food (plankton and benthos). Hence, environmental conditions have  
41 a major impact on the performance of common carp, and much attention has been given to the optimization  
42 of pond management (see Horvath et al., 1992). Genetic improvement could be a complementary way to increase  
43 the effectiveness of carp culture.

44 Genetic improvement of quantitative traits in carp has proceeded through selection (Moav and Wohlfarth, 1976),  
45 genome manipulations (Cherfas et al., 1996; Kocour et al., 2003) and cross-breeding (e.g. Bakos and Gorda,  
46 1995; Bialowas, 1991; Gross and Wohlfarth, 1994; Wohlfarth, 1993, see review by Hulata, 1995). Presently, the  
47 only widely applied method in common carp culture is intra-specific crossbreeding (Kocour et al., 2005).  
48 Concerning within-breed selection, a well documented experiment (but still controversial – see Kinghorn, 1983)  
49 found that mass selection for growth was ineffective (Moav and Wohlfarth, 1976). Estimated heritabilities for  
50 growth traits range from

51 0.0 to 0.5 (Vandeputte, 2003, for a review), but some of those past heritability estimates could have been biased  
52 due to the small number of breeders used, and/or the inability to separate common environment and genetic effects.

53 In a previous study with common carp, we used microsatellite markers for parentage assignment of  
54 240 families produced from 10 dams and 24 sires (Vandeputte et al., 2004). Heritability estimates for weight,  
55 standard length and Fulton's condition coefficient were found to range from 0.33 to 0.37. However, these estimates  
56 were obtained with 8-week-old juveniles. Since the results were encouraging and showed a potential for mass  
57 selection on growth in common carp, we undertook a first generation of selection to test the effectiveness of  
58 selective breeding for growth improvement. We also set up new crosses to estimate the heritability of growth traits  
59 in larger fish. As in our previous experiments, we used microsatellite parentage assignment to access family  
60 information and avoid environmental effects common to full-sib families and the divergent selected genetic groups.

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## **2. Materials and methods**

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The reproduction and culture of common carp was carried out at the experimental facility of the University of South Bohemia, Research Institute of Fish Culture and Hydrobiology (Vodňany, Czech Republic). The traits of interest were recorded in generation 2 (G2) and generation 3 (G3) fish.

### **2.1. Production of G1**

G1 offspring were produced in May 2001 using a full factorial mating between 24 G0 males and 10 G0 females of the HSM (Hungarian Synthetic Mirror) line (Vandeputte et al., 2004). Fin samples (1 cm<sup>2</sup>) were taken on all 34 G0 parents and kept in tubes filled with 98% ethanol. A first attempt to produce selected fish from the G1 was done by selecting the fish on length (up, down and control) in July 2001 and April 2002. However, floods that occurred in Vodňany in September 2002 resulted in mixing of the selected batches which were kept in different ponds. We decided to re-start the experiment from the males of this mixed population, as we could assign most of them to their G0 parents, thus allowing one more pedigreed generation compared with re-starting from the base HSM population.

### **2.2. Production of G2**

In May 2003, 147 spermiating males were collected at random from the G1 population, and mated simultaneously with eight suitable G0 HSM females in a full factorial design to establish the G2. Fin samples were collected on all 155 parents (147 G1 males and 8 G0 females), and stored in 98 % ethanol. Only one G0 female was common to both 2001 and 2003 crosses, so the generations can be considered discrete. The details of the mating methodology are given in Vandeputte et al. (2004) and Kocour et al. (2007). The G2 population was reared as a single batch in one pond under semi-intensive pond management. In September 2003 (one summer), a random sample of 2000 yearlings of G2 population (mean weight 31g, standard deviation 10.3g) was individually PIT tagged and fin sampled. These G2 tagged fish were reared

94 in one batch in an earthen pond until September 2004 when the 1458 survivors were measured for body length  
95 (from the tip of the nose to the end of the caudal peduncle) and body weight.

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### 98 **2.3. Production of G3 by divergent selection**

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100 Among the 1458 G2 fish, it happened that 42% had a deformed mouth, which has a negative impact on growth  
101 (Kocour et al., 2006). Only the 848 fish without mouth deformity were then considered as potential candidates for  
102 selection. Using September 2004 data, potential male broodfish were identified and pre-selected based on  
103 their body length. Body length was chosen as it is highly genetically correlated with body weight (Vandeputte  
104 et al., 2004), but easier to measure on many fish in field conditions. The proportion of fish in the Up group was  
105 9.2%, 16.2% in the Control group (average length) and 12% in the Down group.

106 The numbers (and hence provisional selection intensities) per group were different, as we feared that less  
107 spermiating males would be found among smaller fish in the next spring. In April 2005, 833 fish with normal  
108 mouth had survived, and 99 spermiating males (30 U, 36C, 33D) were identified among  
109 the three pre-selected groups. Only males were selected in order to shorten the whole experiment: in  
110 the climatic conditions of the Czech Republic, males start to spermiate at the age of 2 or 3 years and they can be  
111 used at that age for artificial reproduction, but females mature at the age of 3-4 years and can be used for  
112 reproduction at the earliest at the age of 4 years, optimally at 5 years of age. This is why, for this experiment again,  
113 we used females from the G0 generation.

114 On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the 99 spermiating males were stripped and 96 of them gave enough sperm (30U,  
115 34C, 32D). They were mated in a full factorial design with 8 G0 HSM females (none of which had been used as  
116 parent of the G1 and G2 fish), using our usual methodology (Kocour et al., 2007; Vandeputte et al., 2004). The  
117 eggs from the three Up, Control and Down groups were mixed and reared as a  
118 single batch in one Zuger jar, and then transferred to a resorption trough. At 8 days post-fertilization  
119 (dpf), larvae were randomly split in two equal groups of 20,000 larvae and stocked in two ponds of  
120 0.16 ha. Both ponds were harvested in September 2005, and 750 fish were randomly chosen from each pond,  
121 measured, PIT-tagged and DNA-sampled. After that, the 1500 tagged fish were put in the same over-wintering  
122 pond, and were then treated as a single batch until the end of the second growing season. All surviving fish  
123 were individually measured in April 2006 and November 2006.

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## 126 2.4. Parentage assignment

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128 The following fish were genotyped:

129 the 34 G0 parents (10 females, 24 males);

130 the 147 G1 males and the 8 G0 females used as parents for the G2;

131 812 G2 fish randomly sampled in Sept. 2003;

132 the 96 G2 males and the 8 G0 females used for producing the G3;

133 797 randomly sampled G3 fish (of the total 2x750 fish randomly sampled and measured in Sept.

134 2005);

135 All these fish were genotyped for six to eleven microsatellites (Crooijmans et al., 1997): MFW7, MFW9,

136 MFW11, MFW16, MFW18 and MFW26 for all fish, MFW3, MFW12, MFW20, MFW29 and

137 MFW40 for some fish only. Parentage assignment was performed by exclusion with one or two

138 mismatches tolerated using VITASSIGN (Vandeputte et al., 2006). Only fish assigned to a single parental pair

139 were considered for the analysis.

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## 142 2.5. Statistical analyses

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144 The significance of fixed and random effects was evaluated using SAS-Glm in the G3 population. Heritability

145 values were computed for length and weight at each stage (1<sup>st</sup> summer, 1<sup>st</sup> spring and 2<sup>nd</sup> summer), using VCE

146 5.1.2 (Kovac and Groeneveld, 2003) with an animal model:

$$147 \underline{Y} = \underline{X}\underline{\beta} + \underline{Z}\underline{u} + \underline{e}$$

148 where  $\underline{Y}$  is the vector of observations,  $\underline{\beta}$  is the vector of fixed effects, including year, pond (in G3) and mouth

149 deformity score (in G2),  $\underline{u}$  is the vector of random additive genetic effects, and  $\underline{e}$  is the vector of random residual

150 effects.  $\underline{X}$  and  $\underline{Z}$  are known incidence matrices.

151 The whole dataset (pedigree from G0 to G3, phenotypes in G2 and G3) was used to estimate heritabilities across

152 generations, while the whole pedigree but only the phenotypes in G2 or in G3 were used to estimate within-

153 generation heritabilities.

154 Animals from generations G1 and G2 whose parents could not be identified due to imperfect parentage

155 assignment were considered belonging to the base (G0) population. Univariate models were used to estimate

156 heritabilities, bivariate models were used to estimate genetic correlations between length and weight at each

157 stage, and a trivariate model was used to assess genetic correlation between weights (respectively lengths) at

158 different stages (first summer, spring and second summer). Estimated breeding values for all animals in the  
159 pedigree were obtained from the solutions for the animal additive genetic values in VCE, using the whole dataset.

160 The divergence between the selected groups was tested with the following model in SAS-Glm:

$$161 \quad Y_{ij} = \mu + G_i + e_{ij}$$

162 Where  $Y_{ij}$  is the estimated breeding value of fish  $j$  from genetic group  $i$ ,  $\mu$  is the population mean,  $G_i$  is the fixed  
163 effect of genetic group (G0, G1, G2, G3-U, G3-C, G3-D and  $e_{ij}$  is the random residual. Comparison of  
164 means between genetic groups was done with the Tukey-Kramer test for multiple comparisons.

165 Realized response to upwards selection was calculated in two ways, first as twice the difference between the mean  
166 breeding values of G3-U and G2, and then as twice the difference between the mean breeding values of G3-U and  
167 G3-C. The differences were doubled as in the G3 groups, only the males were selected and then the observed  
168 response is half the true selection response. The same type of calculation was done for downwards selection  
169 response. Realized heritability was calculated as the ratio of these realized responses (standardized in phenotypic  
170 standard deviation units) on the selection differentials.

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### 173 **3. Results**

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#### 176 **3.1. Selection process**

177 The coefficients of variation of length and weight at the time of G2 selection (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) were moderately  
178 high (24% for weight and 8.3% for length). Selection was performed on spermiating males in April 2005 (ca. 2  
179 years of age), based on their length performance after the second summer (in September 2004). The phenotypic  
180 means of the three selected groups are given in Table 1. As suspected, mouth deformities had an impact on  
181 the size of the fish, and only fish with normal mouth were selected. Then, the selection differentials were also  
182 calculated from fish with normal mouth only, and were equivalent to a mass selection intensity of 13% ( $i=$   
183 1.63) downwards and 11% ( $i=1.71$ ) upwards.

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#### 186 **3.2. Parentage assignment**

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188 Parentage assignment results were as follows:

189 126 of the 147 G1 males (85.7%) could be assigned to a single pair (7 of them with one or two mismatches allowed),  
190 the rest being assigned to two or more pairs;  
191 615 individuals in the random sample of 812 G2 fish (75.7%) could be assigned to a single parental pair (all  
192 with perfect match), the rest being assigned to two or more pairs;  
193 63 of the 96 G2 males used for producing the G3 offspring (65.6%) could be assigned to a single pair  
194 (11 of them with one or two mismatches allowed), the rest being assigned to two or more pairs;  
195 647 of the 797 G3 fish (81.2%) could be assigned to a single pair (7 of them with one or two mismatches allowed),  
196 2 could not be assigned to any pair and the rest was assigned to two or more pairs.  
197 These results allowed us to set up a pedigree including animals from all four generations (G0 to G3). The pedigree  
198 included 195 fish without phenotypes (48 G0, 147 G1) and 1321 fish with phenotypes (674 G2, 647 G3).

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### 201 **3.3. Heritabilities and correlations**

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203 The heritabilities calculated using univariate animal models are given in Table 2. They ranged from  
204 0.31 to 0.44 for body weight and 0.21 to 0.33 for body length when the whole dataset (phenotypes from G2  
205 and G3) was used. At any given age, the genetic correlation between length and weight was  
206  $0.97 \pm 0.01$ . The genetic correlation between body weights measured at 1<sup>st</sup> summer and at spring was high  
207 ( $0.96 \pm 0.01$ ), but it was much lower (0.34-0.41) between spring or 1<sup>st</sup> summer and 2<sup>nd</sup> summer (Table 3).  
208 Genetic correlation between length at first summer and at spring was almost unity ( $0.996 \pm 0.004$ ), and the  
209 genetic correlations between length at 2<sup>nd</sup> summer and at the two younger ages were higher than those seen for  
210 weight ( $0.64 \pm 0.07$  for 1<sup>st</sup> summer,  $0.67 \pm 0.06$  for spring). When we considered weight and length recorded at the  
211 same age but in different years (generations) as different traits, we obtained different figures for heritability, higher  
212 in G2 than in G3 (Table2).

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### 215 **3.4. Response to selection**

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217 Phenotypic means of the groups are given in Table 4, and breeding values in the different genetic groups and  
218 generations are given in Table 5. There was no significant variation of the breeding values for any trait, as expected,  
219 in the (unselected) G0, G1 and G2 generations. In the G3 generation a difference in breeding values could be seen  
220 between the three groups ( $U > C > D$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ) at one summer of age. At spring and at second summer, the Control  
221 and Down-selected groups were equivalent, and were outperformed by the Up-selected group ( $P < 0.05$ ). When



222 breeding values were compared between G3 and G2, the Down and Control group had a genetic level equivalent  
223 to G2, while the Up-selected group had a higher genetic level ( $P < 0.05$ ). This was true for both length and weight,  
224 and at all ages. When genetic gain was estimated as the difference between the breeding values of the Up, Down  
225 and Control lines, realized heritability estimates were 0.24, for both upwards and downwards selection. When  
226 upwards selection response was estimated as the difference in breeding values between the Up line and G2, the  
227 corresponding realized heritability estimate was  
228 0.34. When the same was done for downwards selection, realized heritability was 0.14 only.

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## 232 **4. Discussion**

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### 235 **4.1. Parentage assignment**

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237 A total of 1451 out of the 1852 fish genotyped could be assigned to a single parent pair (78.3%). This figure is  
238 relatively low compared to other parentage assignment studies in fish (usually in the 90-99% range, e.g. Fishback  
239 et al., 2002; Norris and Cunningham, 2004; Vandeputte et al., 2004; Wesmajervi et al., 2006). However, we used  
240 large mating schemes in G2 and G3 (147 males x 8 females and 96 males x 8 females, respectively). In such cases  
241 with many potential parents, it is not unusual to have lower assignment rates (e.g. 73.5% in red sea bream with 250  
242 potential parents, Perez-Enriquez et al.,  
243 1999). It must be noted also that the number of non assigned fish is very low (2 fish in G3), and that the number  
244 of fish for which mismatches are needed to achieve unique assignment is also low (25 fish in total), which is  
245 indicative of a low genotyping error rate (Vandeputte et al., 2006). Therefore, the lack of assignment power is  
246 essentially due to an insufficient resolution of the microsatellite loci set in crosses with many parents and  
247 combinations, possibly combined with the fact that domesticated common carp strains commonly have a low allelic  
248 richness, due to their long empirical breeding history (Kohlmann et al., 2005). Therefore, the pedigree used  
249 should comprise only a limited proportion of mis-assigned fish, and therefore be suitable for quantitative genetics  
250 studies. If present, a lack of accuracy in the molecular pedigree should anyway lead to an under-estimation of  
251 heritabilities and larger standard errors (Milner et al., 2000). If microsatellites were to be used for family based  
252 selection in common carp however, it would be necessary to improve the marker set (more loci, more variable), as

253 more than 20% unassigned fish would not be economically acceptable.

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## 256 **4.2. Heritabilities and correlations**

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258 The heritabilities for growth estimated in the present study with the whole dataset (0.21-0.44) are in the usual  
259 range for common carp, (Nagy et al., 1980; Nenashev, 1969; Nenashev, 1966; Smisek,  
260 1981; Tanck et al., 2001 – see review by Vandeputte, 2003). They are very similar to those we found for 8-weeks  
261 weight in the same HSM population (0.33, Vandeputte et al., 2004), but much lower than the one we estimated for  
262 weight at 3 summers of age (0.70, Kocour et al., 2007). However, it must be noted that heritability of weight  
263 estimated solely in the G2 generation gives values comparable to this latter one (0.48-0.67). The fish used by  
264 Kocour et al. (2007) were fish from the G2 generation, so this similarity could be expected. This global heritability  
265 estimate of 0.21-0.44, confirmed over generations, places common carp in the usual range of heritability for growth  
266 in commercial aquaculture species (reviewed by Gjedrem and Olesen, 2005). This value clearly leaves room for  
267 selective breeding for growth in the common carp.

268 We could see that the genetic correlation between growth measurements (weight or length) in first and second  
269 summer was not high (0.3-0.4 for weight, 0.6-0.7 for length). When we consider traits in G2 and in G3 as  
270 different traits, the heritability estimates are never as low as in first summer in G3, where two environments (ponds)  
271 were used for first summer growth. The low heritability could be explained if the offspring from the different sires  
272 were ranked differently in both ponds. Unfortunately, the small family size (6.8 offspring/sire on average, or 3.4  
273 in each pond) did not allow us to test for a sire\*pond interaction with enough power. Nevertheless, genotype by  
274 environment (GxE) interactions are well documented in common carp, at least at the population level, where it has  
275 been shown that different populations may be re-ranked when tested in different environments (Gross and  
276 Wohlfarth, 1994; Moav *et al.*, 1975; Wohlfarth et al., 1983). Therefore, the existence of such interactions at the  
277 family level could be a possibility, although here, we did not try to generate GxE effects, as we used most of the  
278 time only one pond with all genotypes mixed within.

279 Correlations between sizes at different ages were low to moderate. Then, pre-selection of young fish might not be  
280 effective and might bring only moderate improvement to the weight at commercial size. A second argument for  
281 this is the possibility of low survival (due to severe overwintering, predation, diseases etc.) of fish in ponds:  
282 here in G3, at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer, only 479 of the 1500 fish tagged at 1<sup>st</sup> summer were still alive – only  
283 32 % survival. It would seem more rational to wait for older fish to be selected when less inadvertent mortalities  
284 occur. However, pre-selection of younger fish

285 might be still cost-effective considering the difficulties connected to later selection (feeding costs, higher  
286 number of fish to be reared, manipulation and transport problems with bigger fish, number and size of ponds needed  
287 etc.). Overall, in Central European conditions we recommend selection of the common carp at two years of age  
288 (300-600 g).

289 The genetic correlation between length and weight at a given age was close to unity, as usual in fish species, so  
290 selection for increased weight can be performed on length, which is much easier to measure in the field on a large  
291 number of fishes. However, heritability of length (except in G3) seems to be slightly lower than heritability of  
292 weight, and therefore it might be more advantageous, even if less practical, to select on weight rather than on  
293 length.

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### 296 **4.3. Response to selection**

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298 The absolute response to selection observed was low. No significant response to downwards selection was  
299 observed, when compared with the genetic level of the G2 generation. This is the exact opposite of the results  
300 obtained in the first generation of the Israeli divergent selection experiment (Moav and Wohlfarth, 1976). One  
301 problem about the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer G3 data is that they were obtained on a small fish sample (62 to 72 genotyped  
302 fish per group), due to the mortality from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> summer. Therefore, the response estimates were quite  
303 imprecise in the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer. The realized heritability values for upwards selection (0.24-0.34) are in the same  
304 range as the animal model values (0.21-0.33 for length). Besides this, we have to keep in mind that the present  
305 results for response to selection were obtained in communal rearing, with all three genetic groups (U, C, D)  
306 mixed in the same pond.

307 However, it was shown that communal testing could magnify the differences between genetic groups in common  
308 carp (Moav and Wohlfarth, 1974), and so the differences observed here (although moderate) could be over-  
309 estimated.

310 The advantage of rearing the different groups in the same pond from the beginning and retrieving their origin with  
311 microsatellites is that it allowed us to test for selection response in the first generation of selection, without common  
312 environmental effects, and with some chances to see the small differences generated. If we were to test the  
313 difference between genotypes in separate ponds, being able to detect differences in weight around 10% of the  
314 mean may require more than 20 replicated ponds, a number that may be lowered to 4-5 replicates using an  
315 internal control line (Gross and Wohlfarth,  
316 1994; Vandeputte et al., 2002).

317 With a mean heritability value around 0.25, mass selection for growth in common carp should lead to a gain of  
318 12% weight and 4% length by generation, when selecting the best 10% of the populations. The practical generation  
319 interval of common carp in the Czech Republic is 4.5 years (4 years for males, 5  
320 years for females): even if males spermiate from 2-3 years of age, they are routinely used for  
321 reproduction from the age of 4 years (rarely from 3 years), and females are usually used from the age of 5 years  
322 (rarely from 4 years). Then, the annual genetic gain in weight could be around 2.7-3 %. Due to the moderate  
323 heritability value, family selection could also be considered, but it cannot be done easily in separate ponds due to  
324 pond effects, and doing it in mixed families with genotyping would be an excessive cost. Therefore, mass selection  
325 could be a reasonable option with complementary selection on quality traits from measurements on live animals,  
326 such as fat-meter value to control the level of muscular fat, and selection for reduced head length to increase fillet  
327 yield (Kocour et al., 2007).

328 Still, this would be a long-term project of 10-15 years with sustained investment necessary before a significant  
329 improvement (30-40%) could be seen by an individual farmer, because of the large year-to-year and pond-to-pond  
330 variability. Still, the global impact averages on many farms would be immediately positive. The precise impact of  
331 GxE interactions on the genetic gain would also have to be more precisely evaluated, using larger samples in  
332 different rearing conditions.

333 Finally, considering the possibility to genetically improve growth in common carp, the following question  
334 remains: the total weight of fish harvested from a pond depends on the combination of the natural pond  
335 productivity, supplemental food given and survival rate of stocked fish (e.g. Szumiec,  
336 1990). Is it then sure that carps with improved growth would increase the global pond productivity under  
337 semi-intensive pond management? It will be certain only if there is a correlated response in feed efficiency.  
338 However, this correlation seems to be vary a lot among species: non-existent in brown trout (Sanchez et al., 2001),  
339 moderate in rainbow trout (Kause et al., 2006), and higher in Atlantic salmon (Thodesen et al, 1999). So, carp with  
340 improved growth will need to be accompanied with adapted management procedures (e.g. lower density and/or  
341 higher supplemental food) to express their potential. Another possibility would be to improve flesh yield, which  
342 seems feasible on the basis of recent results (Kocour et al., 2007). In this case, the objective would not be to improve  
343 pond productivity, but to improve the quantity of edible flesh from a given pond production.

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347 **Acknowledgements**

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350 The authors wish to thanks the staff of the hatchery at USB RIFCH in the Czech Republic for active participation  
351 in the production of the experimental fish. This work was supported by the project of National Agency for  
352 Agricultural Research in the Czech Republic, no. QF4117, by Research plan of USB RIFCH no. MSM6007665809  
353 and funds from INRA Animal Genetics Department, as well as funding from France-Czech Republic bilateral  
354 programs BARRANDE n° 03218RF, 07508SA and  
355 2004-044-2.

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## Tables

Table1. Numbers and size of G2 carp at two summers, before and after divergent selection. S.D.= standard deviation

	Number of fish	Length at 2 <sup>nd</sup> summer (mm (S.D.))	Selection differential (Length phenotypic S.D. units)
Fish with deformed mouth	610	234.0 (20.7)	-
Fish with normal mouth	848	249.4 (19.3)	-
Spermiating Up fish	30	282.4 (7.5)	+1.71
Spermiating Control fish	36	250.6 (5.3)	+0.06
Spermiating Down fish	33	218.1 (9.4)	-1.63

Table 2. Heritabilities ( $\pm$  S.E.) for body weight and length at different ages in common carp, using univariate animal models in VCE5, four generations of pedigree and two generations of phenotypes (G2 and G3, whole dataset) or just one generation of phenotypes (G2 only or G3 only).

Age	Whole dataset		G2 only		G3 only	
	Weight	Length	Weight	Length	Weight	Length
1 <sup>st</sup> summer	0.31 $\pm$ 0.04	0.21 $\pm$ 0.03	0.61 $\pm$ 0.03	0.39 $\pm$ 0.04	0.18 $\pm$ 0.06	0.25 $\pm$ 0.07
Spring	0.33 $\pm$ 0.04	0.26 $\pm$ 0.03	0.67 $\pm$ 0.03	0.46 $\pm$ 0.04	0.20 $\pm$ 0.07	0.27 $\pm$ 0.08
2 <sup>nd</sup> summer	0.44 $\pm$ 0.05	0.33 $\pm$ 0.04	0.48 $\pm$ 0.03	0.36 $\pm$ 0.05	0.37 $\pm$ 0.13	0.40 $\pm$ 0.13

Table 3. Heritabilities  $\pm$  S.E. (bold), genetic correlations  $\pm$  S.E. (italics) from trivariate animal models, and phenotypic correlations (plain) for body weight and body length after 1<sup>st</sup> summer, at spring and after second summer in common carp, using phenotypes from G2 and G3 and the pedigree from G0 to G3.

		1 <sup>st</sup> summer	spring	2 <sup>nd</sup> summer
Weight	1 <sup>st</sup> summer	<b>0.32<math>\pm</math>0.03</b>	<i>0.96<math>\pm</math>0.01</i>	<i>0.41<math>\pm</math>0.08</i>
	spring	0.95	<b>0.29<math>\pm</math>0.03</b>	<i>0.34<math>\pm</math>0.08</i>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> summer	0.65	0.71	<b>0.46<math>\pm</math>0.04</b>
Length	1 <sup>st</sup> summer	<b>0.20<math>\pm</math>0.03</b>	<i>1.00<math>\pm</math>0.00</i>	<i>0.64<math>\pm</math>0.07</i>
	spring	0.97	<b>0.22<math>\pm</math>0.03</b>	<i>0.67<math>\pm</math>0.06</i>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> summer	0.68	0.71	<b>0.28<math>\pm</math>0.04</b>

Table 4. Phenotypic data (mean values with standard deviation in brackets) of genotyped offspring from selected groups of carp in G3.

	1 <sup>st</sup> summer			Spring			2 <sup>nd</sup> summer		
	<u>n</u>	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	<u>n</u>	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	<u>n</u>	Weight (g)	Length (mm)
Up selected	202	32.1 (11.4)	93.0 (12.7)	103	32.4 (9.7)	97.0 (9.9)	66	703 (173)	306 (26)
Control	225	30.7 (10.5)	92.0 (11.2)	112	30.8 (8.4)	95.6 (9.1)	72	659 (152)	300 (22)
Down selected	220	30.4 (9.7)	91.5 (11.8)	110	31.1 (9.4)	95.9 (9.7)	62	670 (161)	299 (23)

Table 5. Differences between genetic groups for Estimated Breeding Values from the animal model with the whole dataset, estimated for body weight (BW) and body length (BL) at 1 summer, spring and 2 summers of age. Within each line, means with the same superscript are not significantly different (Tukey-Kramer test,  $P > 0.05$ ).

Variable	Genetic group					
	G0 (n=48)	G1 (n=147)	G2 (n=670)	G3-Up (n=66-201*)	G3-Control (n=72-225*)	G3-Down (n=62-219*)
1 sum BL (mm)	-0.5 <sup>ab</sup>	-0.4 <sup>ab</sup>	-0.8 <sup>ab</sup>	1.9 <sup>c</sup>	0.1 <sup>b</sup>	-1.0 <sup>a</sup>
1 sum BW (g)	-0.8 <sup>ab</sup>	-0.9 <sup>ab</sup>	-1.3 <sup>ab</sup>	2.2 <sup>c</sup>	-0.3 <sup>b</sup>	-1.5 <sup>a</sup>
Spring BL (mm)	-0.5 <sup>a</sup>	-0.5 <sup>a</sup>	-0.5 <sup>a</sup>	2.8 <sup>b</sup>	0.6 <sup>a</sup>	-1.3 <sup>a</sup>
Spring BW(g)	-1.0 <sup>a</sup>	-1.2 <sup>a</sup>	-1.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.1 <sup>b</sup>	0.2 <sup>a</sup>	-2.1 <sup>a</sup>
2 sum BL (mm)	-0.4 <sup>a</sup>	0.1 <sup>a</sup>	0.0 <sup>a</sup>	6.9 <sup>b</sup>	2.3 <sup>a</sup>	-2.6 <sup>a</sup>
2 sum BW (g)	-6.4 <sup>a</sup>	-5.6 <sup>a</sup>	-5.8 <sup>a</sup>	53.7 <sup>b</sup>	12.2 <sup>a</sup>	-17.2 <sup>a</sup>

The larger n is for the 1<sup>st</sup> summer, the lower one for the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer.