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SELECTED ISSUES FROM THE LIFE-HISTORY OF SYNGNATHIDAE FAMILY – A FISH WITH EXTRAORDINARY
REPRODUCTION

Summary

Syngnathidae belong to the Actinopterygii class. This family includes pipefishes, seahorses and seadragons. In Syngnathidae, there are distinguishable 298 species. Most of the family members live near the coasts of almost all continents in the shallow waters of coral reefs and seagrass areas. Fishes from Syngnathidae family are characterized by an elongated body covered with bony rings which form a kind of an armor. The elongated snout allows for efficient food suction. Caudal fin takes various shapes and is prehensile in the seahorses. Syngnathidae reproduction is a very interesting and widely studied aspect of their life. There occurs a phenomenon known as male viviparousness. Males incubate embryos in their brood pouch. Consequently, most of the Syngnathidae species exhibit a reversal of sex roles, which means that females are seeking and competing for males. The aim of this review is to present selected issues concerning origin, existence, anatomy, breeding and feeding of fishes from the Syngnathidae family.

Key words: syngnathidae, seahorses, pipefishes, brood pouch, male viviparousness