The Common Bream, *Abramis brama* (Linnaeus, 1758), is a cyprinid fish native to most of Europe and western Asia. However, like many other European freshwater fish (García-Berthou & Moreno-Amich, 2000), the common bream is not native to the Iberian Peninsula, where it was not known to be present until now (Doadrio, 2002).

During a fish survey with boat electrofishing and multimesh gillnets (stretched mesh ranging 29-253 mm), eight individuals of this species were captured in the Boadella Reservoir, NE Spain (42° 20’ 15” N, 2° 21’ 07” E). The individuals had all the distinguishing features of the species, including fin ray formulae (examined in detail for two fish: dorsal III/10, anal III/24-25, pectoral 1/14-16, pelvic II/8, caudal 19) that agree with those reported for the species. The lateral lines had 50-54 scales and the two fish were aged 2+. We captured 978 individuals on August 18, 2004, 856 by littoral electrofishing and 122 by gillnetting at 5-10 m, of depth. Of the 122 gillnet captures, eight were bream (6.6 %), ranging 180-301 mm and 156-257 of total and fork length, respectively. These bream were captured with three different nets, separated a total of ca. 3500 m within the reservoir.

Having the large size of the reservoir (maximum surface area of 364 ha, maximum capacity of 61.1 hm³) and the observed abundance and distribution of bream, a large number of individuals must have been introduced or it could also be an old introduction. We did not detect this species in a previous survey carried out on 7-28 February 2003, but fewer individuals were captured during that survey (140, of which only 18 were
captured by gillnetting) so the species might have already been introduced by that date. The common bream is native to France, which lies only 14 km from the reservoir, and is abundant in standing waters throughout Europe, typifying the last of the four longitudinal zones of most European rivers (Bruslé & Quignard, 2001). Therefore it is likely to establish itself in the Boadella Reservoir and will easily spread downstream of the river basin (Muga River), where it might harm native biota.

Because of its proximity to the French border and to the most important geographical entryway to the Iberian Peninsula, the Boadella Reservoir has unfortunately many exotic species, at least nine fish species (six of them native to France), and has been one of the first localities of introduction for other species still not widespread in Spain, such as the perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), the roach (*Rutilus rutilus*), the pike-perch (*Sander lucioperca*), or the rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*). This reservoir along with the Banyoles Lake have been shown to be some of the main entrance points of exotic freshwater fish in the Iberian Peninsula (García-Berthou & Moreno-Amich, 2000; Zamora & Pou-Rovira, 2003) and should be more controlled by fish management authorities.

Prevention measures should be taken by the administration to avoid the spreading of this new exotic species to other reservoirs and river basins. This has not been the case with numerous previous introductions in the Iberian Peninsula, and several species such as the bleak (*Alburnus alburnus*) and the wels (*Silurus glanis*) are being illegally spread by anglers nowadays (Carol et al., 2003). Eradication of introduced fish is practically impossible in large freshwater eco-

systems, so prevention of further introductions and translocations is of primary concern.

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