Poster #13

Effects of Paper Mill Effluent on a Population of Eastern Mosquitofish, *Gambusia holbrooki*

Heather B. McNatt¹, Robert A. Angus¹, and W. Mike Howell²

¹Biology Department, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL 35294 ²Biology Department, Samford University, Birmingham, AL 35229

e-mail: myrmekiaphila@juno.com, Phone: (205) 824-0400, Fax: (205) 975-6097

A population of eastern mosquitofish, *Gambusia holbrooki*, living below a paper mill on the Fenholloway River, Taylor County, Florida, USA, are partially masculinized. Females exhibit elongated anal fins resembling male gonopodia. Unlike males, however, the anal fin tips lack termination complexes. Females from this population were collected and compared to females from a control site, Spring Creek (Fenholloway River tributary), to determine the effects of effluent and masculinization on the reproductive status of the population. Relative to the Spring Creek control population, females living below the paper mill tend to have a smaller maturation size and fewer and smaller embryos and mature ova per female.