

Fecundity and Condition Factor of *Clarias anguillaris* of Oguta Lake, Nigeria

Eke FN¹, Odo GE^{1*}, Agwu JE¹ and Anya CB²

¹Department of Zoology and Environmental Biology, University of Nigeria, Nigeria

²Department of Biology, Gregory University, Uturu, Abia State, Nigeria

*Corresponding author: Odo GE, Department of Zoology and Environmental Biology, University of Nigeria, Nigeria, Tel: +234 7037205640; E-mail: gregory.odo@unn.edu.ng

Received date: October 05, 2017; Accepted date: October 20, 2017; Published date: October 27, 2017

Copyright: © 2017 Eke, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Abstract

Fecundity and condition factor of *Clarias anguillaris* were studied in Oguta Lake for eight weeks. Forty species of *C. anguillaris* were studied. The length-weight relationship, fecundity, condition factor and gonad-osomatic indices were factors employed for assessment of health status of the fish. The mean length and weight of the *C. anguillaris* collected were 27.46 ± 1.47 (12.00-38.50) cm and 391.26 ± 17.92 (144.60-553.40) g respectively. Some of the morphometrics manifested linkage and *C. anguillaris* exhibited a coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.008, and Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) of -0.091. Fecundity-weight relationship of *C. anguillaris* was also not significant ($p=0.062$) with a Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) of -0.357 and coefficient of determination (R^2)=0.127. The variations in condition factor of *C. anguillaris* at Oguta Lake was 19.96% ($R^2=0.1996$) and this was explained by the variations in GSI. *Clarias anguillaris* from the Oguta Lake showed negative allometric growth pattern which implied that the fish species is increasing in length faster than its weight. This could be as a result of the polluted nature of the Lake, shortage of food supply, diseases which might have altered the fish speciation.

Keywords *Clarias anguillaris*; Fecundity; Condition factor; Oguta lake

Introduction

Clariidae fish species are known for its commercial value to people of Oguta. Fish oil contains vitamins A, D, E and K which have been successfully used in controlling coronary heart diseases, arthritis, atherosclerosis, asthma, auto immune deficiency diseases and cancer [1]. Fish is often recommended for cardio-vascular disease patients because of its unique fat, which is composed mainly of Omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid. In addition to its nutritious flesh, vitamins A and D present in fish oil are important especially in infants and children [2]. Fish also supplies to the body, a range of inorganic minerals such as Phosphorus, Fluorine, Potassium, Iron, Zinc, Magnesium, and Copper in marine species Iodine as well as vitamins A and B complex [3]. The proximate composition, nutritive values and mineral composition of fishes in Nigeria have been documented [4].

C. anguillaris is a native of Africa and air breathing catfish which is also known as the mudfish. This species is of importance in commercial fisheries. It grows to a length of 100 cm. They are used extensively in aquaculture on account of the ready availability of their seeds in the wild, good adaption to climate ability to support high population densities and to feed on grasses and weeds in the ponds. They feed mainly on fish larvae, molluscs, crustacean and diatoms mostly during the rainy season. Their growth is quite remarkable and pronounced during length-weight relation (LWR).

The condition factor in fish serves as an indicator of physiological state of the fish in relation to its welfare [5] and also provides information when comparing two populations living in certain feeding density, climate and other condition [6]. Thus, condition factor is important in understanding the life cycle of fish species and it

contributes to adequate management of these species, hence, maintaining the equilibrium in the ecosystem [7].

The understanding of the biology, environmental parameters and population structure of *C. anguillaris* is essential to optimize production from the wild. There is paucity or no literature on fecundity and condition factor of *C. anguillaris* of Oguta Lake. The only known information on Oguta Lake was the ones reported by Okonkwo et al. [8]. A study of fecundity and condition factor of *C. anguillaris* species from Oguta Lake will provide information for management decision and culture of the species in the area and similar water bodies. Hence, this work investigated the fecundity of different batch weight of *C. anguillaris* species, fecundity-weight, relative fecundity-length relationship, length-weight relationship and relative fecundity-weight relationship. Also the condition factor and gonad-omatic index of *C. anguillaris* in Oguta Lake was as well determined.

Materials and Methods

Study area

Oguta Lake is one of the inland fresh water drainage basins within South-eastern Nigeria. It lies approximately within Latitudes $50^\circ 41'$ and $50^\circ 44'$ North and Longitudes $60^\circ 50'$ and $60^\circ 45'$ East. It is located in Imo State, Nigeria. About linear in shape, the lake receives inputs from Rivers Njaba, Awbana and Orashi, while the fourth river, Utu flows in only during the rainy season. The Lake is a relatively small and shallow water body, the water volume increases tremendously during the rains; its maximum surface area being 2.48 Km^2 with a depth of 9.30 m [8].

This lake is the largest natural lake in South Eastern Nigeria; it is also a source of navigation and transportation, sightseeing and

Results

Descriptive statistics of *C. anguillaris* from Oguta Lake

The mean values of *C. anguillaris* sampled at Oguta Lake were 27.46 ± 1.47 (12.00-38.50) cm and 391.26 ± 17.92 (144.60-553.40) g

respectively (Table 1). The mean fecundity and mean relative fecundity were 14892.31 ± 2854.20 (3257.14-76377.36) and 49.82 ± 9.87 (6.27-21.85) respectively. Also the mean gonado-somatic index was 9.23 ± 1.39 (1.95-21.85).

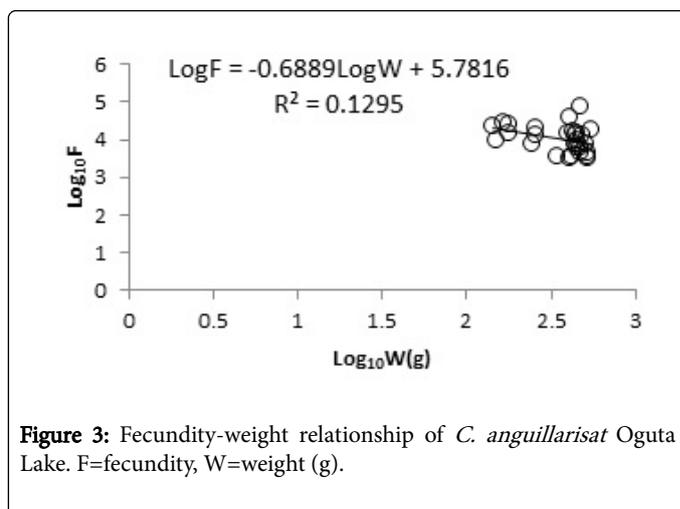
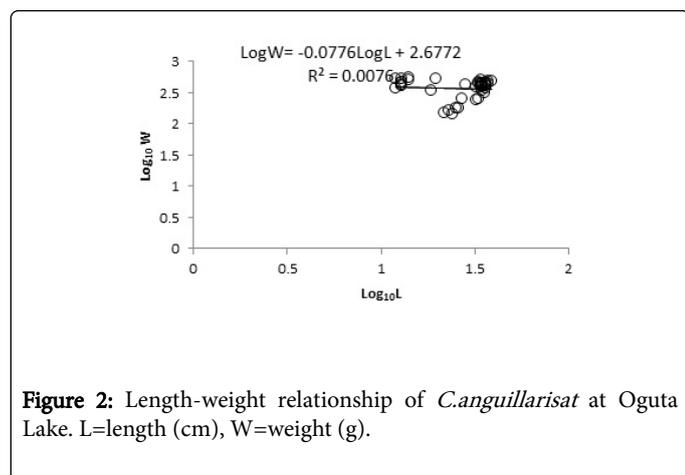
Parameter	Mean ± SE (n = 40)	Minimum	Maximum
Length (cm)	27.46 ± 1.47	12	38.5
Weight (g)	391.26 ± 17.92	144.6	553.4
Gonad Weight (g)	4.77 ± 0.33	3	10.5
Number of eggs	1176.32 ± 138.16	50	3000
Fecundity	14892.31 ± 2854.20	3257.14	76377.36
Relative fecundity	49.82 ± 9.87	6.37	176.86
Gonadosomatic index	9.27 ± 1.39	1.95	21.85
Condition factor	5.99 ± 1.69	0.71	30.1

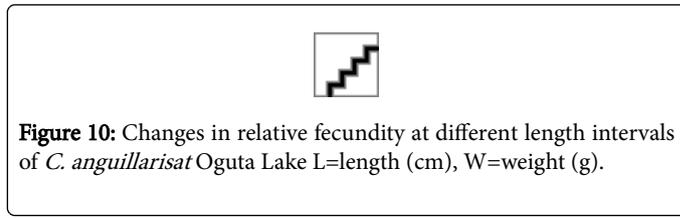
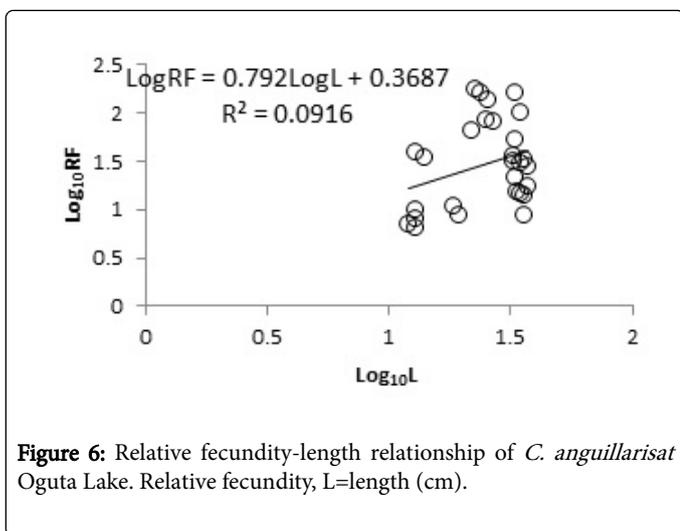
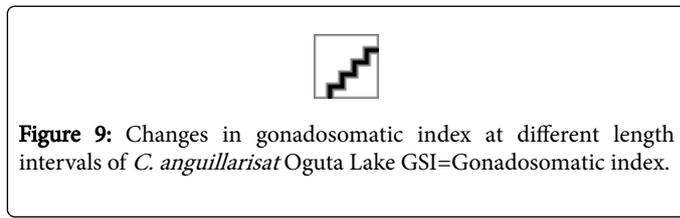
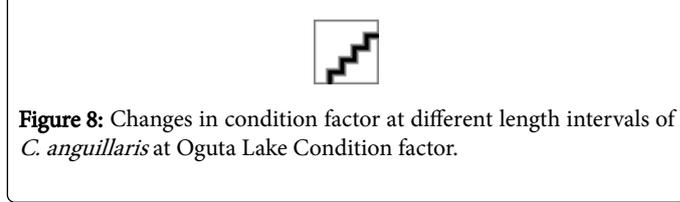
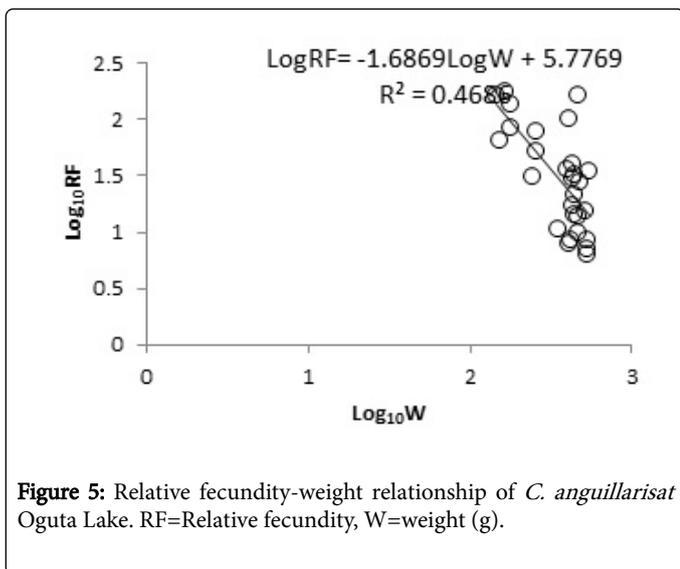
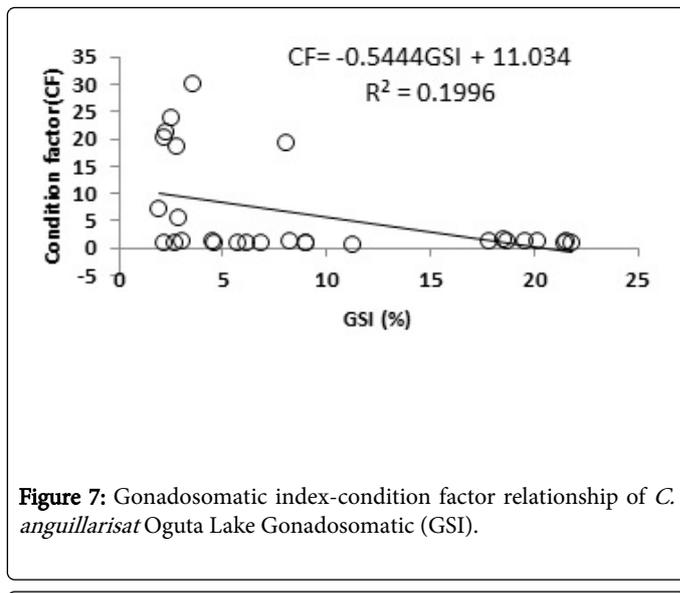
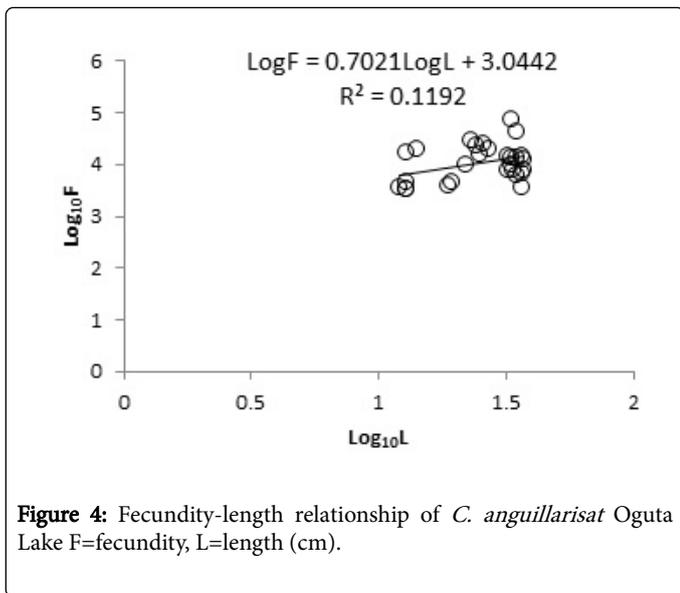
Table 1: The mean fecundity and mean relative fecundity values of *C. anguillaris*.

Relationships	Logarithmic equation (Log Y=Loga+bLogX)	A	B	Pearson's correlation (r)	R ²	S Sig. (p-value)	Pattern
Length (L)-Weight (W)	LogW=2.6772-0.0776LogL	475.55	-0.078	-0.091	0.01	0.578ns	Negative allometric
Fecundity (F)-Weight(W)	LogF=5.7816-0.6889LogW	604784	-0.689	-0.357	0.13	0.062ns	Negative allometric
Fecundity(F)-Length (L)	LogF=3.0442+0.7021LogL	12.98	0.7021	0.344	0.12	0.073ns	Negative allometric
Relative Fecundity(RF)-Weight(W)	LogRF=5.7769-1.6869LogW	56.74	-1.687	-0.685	0.47	0	Negative allometric
Relative Fecundity (RF)-Length (L)	LogRF=0.3687+0.7920LogL	0.1	0.792	0.301	0.09	0.119ns	Negative allometric

ns=not significant. Sample size of *C. anguillar* is examined was 40.

Table 2: Linear relationships of the characteristics of *C. anguillaris* at Oguta Lake.





Relationships of the characteristics of *C. anguillaris* at Oguta lake

The length-weight, fecundity-weight, fecundity-length, of *C. anguillaris* in Oguta Lake is shown in Table 2 and Figures 2-6. The linear relationship between length and weight of *C. anguillaris* at Oguta Lake had a coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.008, and Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) of -0.091. The linear relationship of length and weight was not significant ($p > 0.05$). The logarithmic linear equation relating the weight to the length was $\text{Log W} = 2.6772 - 0.0776\text{LogL}$ (i.e. $W = 475.55L - 0.0776$) implying a negative allometric growth pattern as the length-weight relationship coefficient of growth was -0.0776 (Figure 2).

The fecundity-weight relationship of *C. anguillaris* at Oguta Lake was also not significant ($p = 0.062$) with a Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) of -0.357 and coefficient of determination (R^2) = 0.127.

The fecundity-weight relationship was negative allometric with logarithmic linear equation, $\text{Log } F = 5.7816 - 0.6889 \text{Log } W$ (Figure 3). The fecundity-length relationship was also not significant ($r = 0.344$, $R^2 = 0.118$, $p > 0.05$) with a logarithmic equation $\text{Log } F = 0.0442 + 0.7021 \text{Log } L$ (Figure 4).

There was a negative linear relationship between the condition factor and gonado-somatic index of *C. anguillaris* at Oguta Lake (Figure 7). The variations in condition factor of *C. anguillaris* at Oguta Lake was 19.96% ($R^2 = 0.1996$) explained by the variations in gonado-somatic index.

C. anguillaris length related changes in condition factors, gonado-somatic indices and relative fecundity at Oguta Lake were shown in Figures 8-10. The mean condition factor of the fish with length between 10 and 14.5 cm was 21.67 ± 1.20 ; 6.33 ± 0.81 for 15 cm-19.5 cm long fish and declined to 1.27 ± 0.12 , 1.34 ± 0.18 , 1.11 ± 0.07 and 0.89 ± 0.03 for length intervals 20 cm-24.5 cm, 25 cm-29.5 cm, 30 cm-34.5 cm and 35 cm-39.5 cm respectively (Figure 8).

The mean gonad-osomatic index for fish with length 10 cm-14.5 cm was $(3.58 \pm 0.92)\%$; $(2.43 \pm 0.48)\%$ for 15 cm-19.5 cm long *C. anguillaris* and exponentially increased to $(19.99 \pm 0.98)\%$ and $(19.87 \pm 1.08)\%$ for length intervals of 20 cm-24.5 cm and 25 cm-29.5 cm respectively (Figure 9). For length interval of 30 cm-34.5 cm and 35 cm-39.5 cm the GSI declined to (10.45 ± 2.70) and $(5.80 \pm 1.05) \%$ respectively.

The relative fecundity followed a similar trend as the gonado-somatic index of *C. anguillaris* at Oguta Lake (Figure 10). The relative fecundity was low at the lower length interval and peaked at between 20 cm-24.5 cm fish length.

Discussion

Growth and reproductive efficiency are predictors of fish health and species fitness. Factors that interfere with reproduction and growth either directly by causing mortality or indirectly as disease agent may be deciphered by regular fish stock assessment. The length-weight relationship, fecundity and gonad-osomatic index are factors employed for assessment of health status of fish species. From the present study, the observation of negative allometric growth of the *C. anguillaris* in Oguta Lake is similar to observation that was made for same fish species in Ebonyi River in Nigeria [11] and Jabal Awlya Dam Lake in Sudan [12]. While Ude et al. [13] reported a negative allometric growth for *C. anguillaris*; however, their regression analysis for length-weight relationship showed a significant relationship between both parameters ($p < 0.05$) unlike our observation where there was no significant association in the length-weight relationship of *C. anguillaris* ($p > 0.05$). Ude et al. [13] found a significant association between the weight and length of *C. anguillaris* in Oguta Lake. The observation of non-significance in the length-weight relationship from our study may have arisen from the sample size used.

Fecundity has been reported to show association to length and weight of some fish species in some rivers [14,15]. In the present study, fecundity was affected by fish length and weight, but they were not significant. Shifa [14] reported a significant association between fish species weight and length in Dai Lake Kashmir. There was however, a significant association between relative fecundity of *C. anguillaris* and fish length in Oguta Lake. Hassain et al. [15] made a similar observation for *Puntius ticto* in Ganges River, Northwestern Bangladesh. Environmental factors such as pollution, food availability

and disease affect fecundity [14]. The rate of disease is known to be dependent of age of organisms which in fish maybe estimated by fish length and weight; thus the association between length and fecundity may be linked to the environment as well. This probably accounted for the decline in *C. anguillaris* condition factor as the fish length increased.

The GSI of some fish species have been reported to improve as the fish mature [16]. There was an increase in length and weight which are signs of maturity and this brought about the development of the gonads, thus improving the GSI of the fish. So our observation about the association between fish length and GSI agreed with general expectations. Also, the drop in GSI after a certain length might be ascribed to a drop in egg production at old age. Thus, the negative linear relationship between GSI of *C. anguillaris* and condition factor is well accounted for by environmental factors and *C. anguillaris*-associated factors.

The mean condition factor, K value of 5.99 ± 1.69 for *C. anguillaris* was greater than one which suggested that the fish was in good condition. Wotton [17] reported that fish with significant K effects showed healthier wellbeing than fish with lower K values. The condition factor of fish of this study agreed with the result recorded by Idowu [18]. The high value of K recorded in this study was attributable to the feeding intensity of the fish. Oso [19] observed reduced 'K' effects for *C. gariepinus* in Ero reservoir. During the research, other fish species were observed and this suggests that there must have been competition between the spaces for food and other material needed for proper growth or for the robustness of the studied fish. Also, the high condition factor recorded in this study could be attributed to increased food availability occasioned by flooding, favourable environmental condition and gonad development. Conversely, the low condition factor observed may be attributed to physiological stress due to changes in physical and chemical conditions of the habitat. Earlier researchers [20-23] made similar observation.

Conclusion

C. anguillaris from Oguta Lake showed a negative allometric growth pattern which implies that the fish species is increasing in length faster than in its weight which could be as a result of the polluted nature of the Lake, shortage of food supply and disease, which might have altered the pattern or process of the fish species. The fecundity of the fish as well had a negative linear relationship with length *C. anguillaris* in Oguta Lake. Actions should be taken to improve the health status of *C. anguillaris* in Oguta Lake.

References

1. Bhuiyan AKM, Ratnayake WMN, Ackman RG (1993) Nutritional composition of raw and smoked Atlantic mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*): oil-water soluble vitamin. Journal food composition and Analysis 6: 172-184.
2. Fasakin K (2006) Fish farming (aquaculture) made easy. LUSIJ Publications Lagos, Nigeria.
3. Adeniyi OR, Omitoyin SA, Aderibigbe HI (2010) Profitability of aquaculture practices: Empirical experience from fish farmers in Epe Local Government Area of Lagos State. Nigerian Journal of Fisheries 7: 117-125.
4. Abdullahi SA, Abolude DS (2006) Some studies on the biology of *Bagrus bagrad* (Daget) in Tiga Lake, Kano State Nigeria. Journal of Arid Zone Fisheries 3: 1-11.

5. LeCren ED (1951) The length-weight relationship and seasonal cycle in gonad weight and condition factor in the Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*). *Journal of Animal Ecology* 20: 201-219.
6. Weatherly AH, Gill HS (1987) *The biology of fish growth*, London, Academic Press pp: 433-443.
7. Imam TS, Bala U, Balarabe ML, Oyeyi TI (2010) Length-weight relationship and condition factor of four fish species from Wasai Reservoir in Kano, Nigeria. *African Journal of General Agriculture* 6: 125-130.
8. Okonkwo UU (2011) The Aro host communities and continuities in Inter group suspicion in the Oguta area since pre-colonial Times. *African Journal of Social Science* 2: 9-11.
9. Abowei FN, Hart AI (2009) Some morph metric parameters of 10 fin fish species from the lower Nun River, Niger Delta, Nigeria. *Research Journal of Biological Sciences* 4: 282-288.
10. Dan-kishiya AS, Kabir HM (2013) The influence of smoke- oven-drying and sun-drying on the nutritive value of *Oreochromis niloticus* in Gwagwalada. *Biological and Environmental Science Journal for the Tropics* 3: 132-134.
11. Ude EF, Ugwu LLC, Mgbenka BO, Nwani CD (2011) Evaluation of length-weight relationship of species of Ebonyi River, Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Fisheries* 8: 136-144.
12. Lake JAD (2014) Length-weight and length-length relationship of four fish species from Jabal Awlya Dam Lake (Sudan). *International Journal of Advanced Research in Biological Sciences* 1: 54-59.
13. Shafi S (2012) Study on fecundity and GSI of *Carassius carassius* (Linnaeus, 1758-induced) from Dal Lake Kashmir. *Journal of Biology, Agriculture and Healthcare* 2: 68-75.
14. Hossain MY, Rahman MM, Fulanda B, Jewel MAS, Ahamed F, et al. (2011) Length-Weight and length-length relationship of five threatened fish species from the Jamuna (Brahmaputra River tributary) River, Northern Bangladesh. *Journal of Applied Ichthyol* 28: 275-277.
15. Flores A, Wiff R, Diaz E (2014) Using the gonadosomatic index to estimate the maturity ogive: Application to Chilean hake (*Merluccius gayi gayi*). *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 72: 508-514.
16. Wotton RJ (1996) *Fish ecology*. Blackie Academy and Professional, Chapman and Hall, London pp: 212.
17. Idowu EO (2007) Aspects of the biology of *Hepsetus odoe* in Ado-Ekiti Reservoir, Ekiti, Nigeria. Ph.D. thesis, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.
18. Oso JA (2007) Ecological basis for the sustainable management of *Oreochromis niloticus* (L) *Sarotherodon galilaeus* (L) and *Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell 1822) in Ero Reservoir, Ikun Ekiti, Nigeria. Ph.D. Thesis, University of Ibadan.
19. Olatunde AA (1986) Length-weight relationship and the diets of *Clarias lazera* Cuvier: Valenciennes, family Clariidae (Ostiechthyes: siluriformes) in Zaria, Nigeria pp. 183-192.
20. Nwadiora CS, Okorie PU (1985) Biometric characteristics, Length-weight relationship and condition factors in *Chrysichthys filamentosus* (Pisces: Bagriidae) from Oguta Lake Nigeria, *Biologia Africa* 2: 48-57.
21. Mgbenka BO, Eyo JE (1992) Aspects of the biology of *Clarias gariepinus* in Anambra River Basin Maturation and condition factor. *Journal of Agricultural Science and Technology* 7: 52-55.
22. Ikomi RB (1996) Studies on the growth pattern, feeding habits and reproductive characteristics of the mormyrid *Brienomyrus longionalis* (Boulenger, 1901) in the Upper Warri River Nigeria. *Fisheries Research* 26: 187-198.
23. Ekanem SB (2000) Some reproductive aspects of *Chrysichthys nigrodigitatus* (Lacepede) from Cross River, Nigeria *Naga ICLARM Quarterly* 3: 24-28.