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Length–weight relationship and relative condition factor of *Atropus atropos* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801) from Mangalore coast, India

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The length-weight relationship of *Atropus atropos* was estimated and corresponding equation was $W=0.0185\ L^{2.8647}$ for male and $W=0.01398\ L^{2.9575}$ for female. Analysis of covariance showed that there is no significant difference in length-weight relationship between the male and female. Hence, the pooled equation for both sexes was obtained at $W=0.0031L^{2.8915}$. Data on seasonal variation in condition (K_n) of both male and female during the study period showed that the values were more or less similar in both the sexes, indicating almost identical metabolic activity in male and female which may be attributed to gonadal development and high feeding intensity. Mature gonads appeared conspicuously from April onwards which further supported rise in Kn values. The fluctuation in the relative condition factor (K_n) value with respect to size indicated that condition of fish more or less showed an increasing trend with size of fish. The seasonal fluctuations in the relative condition factor of both the sexes could be attributed to the sexual cycle, food intake and environmental factors. From the present study, it can be said that the variation in the condition of *Atropus atropos* was due to feeding activity.

Biography

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