

Length-Weight Relationships of *Luciobarbus pectoralis* from the Menzelet Dam Lake of Kahramanmaras

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Abstract: Length-weight relationships are of great value in fisheries research as they are essential to convert length-frequency data into accurate populations estimates and are so often used in stock assessment methods. In this study, the length-weight relationships by sex of the *Luciobarbus pectoralis* population living in Menzelet Dam Lake (Kahramanmaras) were examined. Fish were caught with gillnets. A total of 150 samples were collected and analyzed. The length-weight relationship was estimated using the linear regression model $W = aL^b$ and condition factor, (K) determined using the equation $K = 100.W/L^3$. Total length of samples ranged between 16.50-20.60 cm (male), 15.50-21.00 cm (female) and weight 30.81-61.64 g (male), 23.87-75.65 g (female) for *L. pectoralis*. The length-weight relationship of fishes were found as $W = 0.067L^{1.778}$ for all specimens, $W = 0.039L^{2.418}$ for male and $W = 1.063L^{1.228}$ for females. Negative allometric growth was recorded for both sexes. The condition factor were varied as 0.731 (all individuals), 0.729 (male) and 0.732 (female) in *L. pectoralis*. The difference of length-weight relationship between *L. pectoralis* was not statistically significant (p and gt ; 0.05). This study, in future has provided baseline information on the LWR and K of *L. pectoralis* that would be useful for fish biologists and managers to adopt the adequate regulations for sustainable fishery management in the natural water.

Key words: Menzelet Dam Lake, fish, *Luciobarbus pectoralis*, length-frequency data, biologists, LWR

INTRODUCTION

The Length-Weight Relationship (LWR) studies are considered a prerequisite in fish biology investigations. It is mainly required to know the variations in expected weight from the known length groups which are in turn, the indications of fatness, breeding and feeding state and their suitability to the environment (Saha *et al.*, 2009). Length-length relationships are important for comparative growth studies (Moutopoulos and Stergiou, 2002). Length-length relationships help in the interconversion of total length data with other morphometric characters (Bai and Manimegalai, 2010).

Studies on the length-weight relationship of fishes are important in fishery biology because they allow the estimation of the average weight of fish of a given length group by establishing a mathematical relation between the two (Berg, 1981). The length-weight relationship has been studied by several researchers in different fish species viz., *Clarias gariepinus* (Ayo-Olalusi, 2014), *Oreochromis niloticus* (Silva *et al.*, 2015), *Astyanax aff. fasciatus*

(Furuya *et al.*, 2014), *Pseudorasbora parva*, *Atherina boyeri*, *Aphanius danfordii*, *Tinca tinca* and *Cyprinus carpio* (Kirankaya *et al.*, 2014), *Capoeta umbla* (Serdar and Ozcan, 2016), *Acanthobrama marmid*, *Capoetatrutta*, *arbusluteus* and *Chalcalburnus mossulensis* (Basusta and Cicek, 2006), *Carasobarbus luteus*, *Chondrostoma regium*, *Clarias gariepinus*, *Anguilla anguilla* and *Cyprinus carpio* (Ozcan, 2008).

Condition factor (K) is an important biological parameter which indicates the suitability of a specific water body for the growth of fish and an index of species average size (Bagenal and Tesch, 1978). Condition factor has been studied for different fish species such as *Clarias gariepinus* (Keyombe *et al.*, 2015), *Anabas testudineus* (Maurya *et al.*, 2018), *Abramis brama* (Khristenko and Kotovska, 2017), *Capoeta angorae* (Emre *et al.*, 2014), *Capoeta erhani* (Ayyildiz *et al.*, 2014), *Silurus glanis* (Uysal *et al.*, 2009). The present study aimed to find out the present status of the length-weight relationship and condition factor of

Luciobarbus-pectoralis. The results play an important role in the management of *L. pectoralis* in the protection program of its natural stocks.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Menzelet Dam Lake constructed on the River Ceyhan in the Mediterranean Region of Turkey has a surface area of 42 km² at 700 m altitude and it is used for electrical energy production. The maximum depth is 100 m and the total volume is about 12×10⁹ m³. The fish were collected from December 2012 to October 2014 from the Menzelet Dam Lake (Kahramanmaras-Turkey) (Fig. 1). These samples were collected using gillnets. In the laboratory, Total Length (TL) (in cm), Total Weights (TW) were measured. The sexes were separated after a macroscopic determination of the gonads when the gonads were thin and poorly developed the fish sex was considered as undetermined.

The Length-Weight Relationship (LWR) of a fish was expressed by equation $W = aTL^b$ where, W is the total weight, (TL) is the Total Length, a is the coefficient related to body form and b is an exponent indicating isometric growth when equal to 3 and allometric growth when different to 3 (the allometry is majorant if $b > 3$ and minorant if $b < 3$). The parameters a and b of the length-weight relationship was estimated by the least-square method using was the dependent variable and TL as the independent variable, $\log(W) = \log(a) + b \log(TL)$. The b-value for each species was tested by student t-test to verify, if it was significantly different from the predictions for isometric growth ($b = 3$). The Fulton's Condition Factor (cf) was calculated, according to Bagenal and Tesch (1978) with equation:

$$K = 100W / L^3$$

Where:

- K = The condition factor (cf)
- W = The total Body Weight (BW)
- L = The Carapace Length (CL)
- 3 = Constant

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 150 individuals of *L. pectoralis* were used in this study. LWR is shown in Fig. 2. Total length of samples ranged between 16.50-20.60 cm (male, n = 77), 15.50-21.00 cm (female, n = 73) and weight 30.81-61.64 g (male), 23.87-75.65 g (female) for *L. pectoralis*. The length-weight relationship of fishes were found as $W = 0.067L^{1.778}$ for all specimens, $W = 0.039L^{2.418}$ for male and $W = 1.063L^{1.228}$ for females. Negative allometric growth was recorded for both sexes ($b < 3$). The condition factor were varied as 0.731 (all individuals), 0.729 (male) and 0.732 (female) in *L. pectoralis*. The difference of length-weight relationship between *L. pectoralis* was not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$) (Table 1).

Length-weight relationships give information on the condition and growth patterns of fish (Bagenal and Tesch, 1978). In morphometry, length-weight relationships

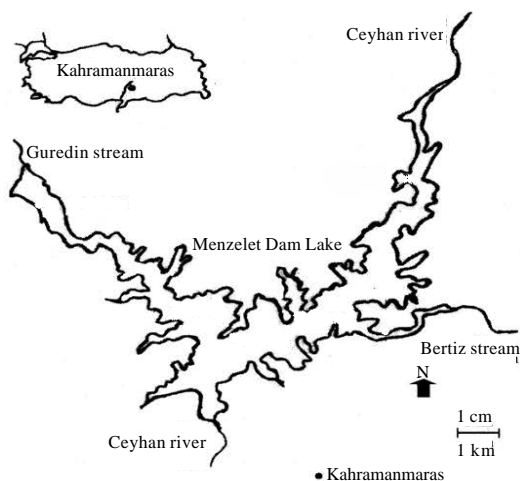


Fig. 1: Menzelet Dam Lake

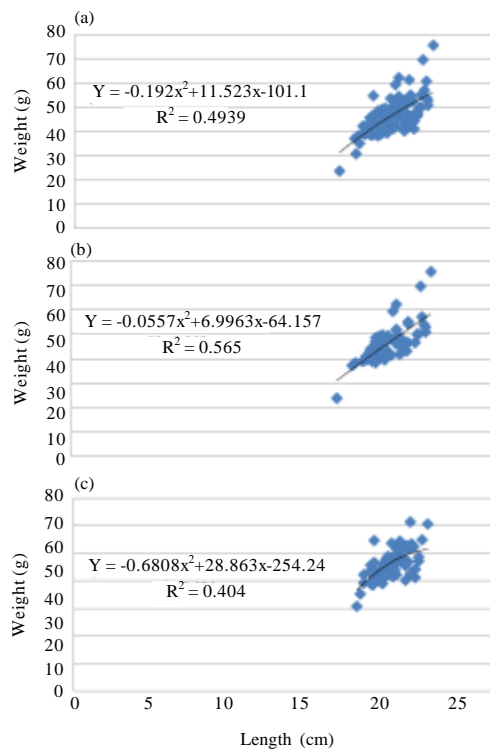


Fig. 2: Length-weight relationships for *L. pectoralis*: a) All individuals; b) Female and c) Male

Table 1: Total length-weight relationships of *L. pectoralis* in Menzelet Dam Lake

Fish/sex	n	Total length range (cm)	Weight range (g)	LWR*	K	Type of growth (b = 3, p = 0.05)
M	77	16.50-20.60	30.81-61.34	$W = 0.039L^{2.418}$	0.729	A (-)
F	73	15.50-21.00	23.87-75.65	$W = 1.063L^{1.228}$	0.732	A (-)
All	150	16.50-21.00	23.87-75.65	$W = 0.067L^{1.778}$	0.731	A (-)

K: Condition factor, A (-): Negative allometry growth

are a valuable and standard result of fish sampling programmes. These relationships are considered necessary to estimate various morphological and physiological aspects such as growth rates, length and age structures and other mechanisms of fish population dynamics (Kolher *et al.*, 1995). In fish, the weight is considered to be the function of length (Weatherly and Gill, 1987). LWRs and condition factors of *Luciobarbus* species has been reported for different populations. Erguden (2016) reported total length as 15.50-33.50 cm and Weight (W) as 37.00-412.7 g for *L. pectoralis* collected from Seyhan Reservoir (South-Eastern Anatolia, Turkey). Basiacik *et al.* (2012) reported that the maximum and minimum values of total length of the *L. kottelati* collected from Adyguzel Dam Lake (Denizli-Turkey) ranged between 13.2-32.3 cm. The range extended from 40.10-572.70 g for weight. Investigations on the population of the *L. esocinus* and *L. mystaceus* inhabiting Keban Dam Lake (Elazig, Turkey) showed that average total lengths were 37.40-49.70 and 32.20-45.40 cm, respectively. The weight was averaged as 370.40-834.30 and 304.7- 846.70 g for the same groups of individuals, respectively (Dartay and Gul, 2014).

When the specific gravity of a fish remains unchanged and retains the same shape during its lifetime it is growing isometrically and the value of length exponent b would be exactly 3.0 (Wootton, 1990). Growth in fish stocks is isometric when b value is 3.0. But the growth rate depends on species, sex, age, seasons and feeding (Bagenal and Tesch, 1978) and may be lower or higher than 3 indicating negative and positive allometric growth, respectively. The results of present study revealed that *L. pectoralis* showed negative allometric growth this type of relationship had been reported in fishes that maintain a constant body shape (Bolaji *et al.*, 2011; Obasohan *et al.*, 2012; Ilhan and Sari, 2015).

The mean condition factors for male and female condition factor of 0.729 and 0.732, respectively were determined. Coban *et al.* (2012), reported K = 0.528-1.865 for *L. esocinus* in Keban Reservoir. Average condition factor values reported as between 0.813-1.019 for *B. esocinus* by Girgin and Sen (1995) between 0.883-1.442 and by Sen *et al.* (1996) in Keban Dam Lake. Condition factor values change, according to the nutrition condition of the environment, fish age and stress condition and the reproduction activity of the fish (Korkut *et al.*, 2007).

CONCLUSION

It is well known that the functional regression b, value varies according to the body shape of fish and some life history parameters such as maturity, maximum size, growth rate and others factors like habitat, stomach fullness, health, sex, age, etc. The results of this study, provide useful basic biological information about *L. pectoralis* of fish caught in the study area that can also be compared to surrounding areas like the Menzelet Dam Lake (Kahramanmaraş, Turkey).

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