

Biological Studies of the Pearl Spot *Etroplus suratensis* (Pisces, Cichlidae) from three Different Habitats in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The morphometry, feeding habits and reproductive biology of *Etroplus suratensis*, an indigenous cichlid food fish, were studied for a period of one year on specimens from three different habitats in Sri Lanka. The morphometric studies implied that the length weight relationships are curvilinear. Macrophytic fragments formed the most important component of food, although detritus, diatoms, and animal matter are also ingested. First sexual maturity is attained in the length ranges 8.0-9.0 cm in females from brackish water habitats. Fecundity ranged from 700-3900 eggs in mature specimens. The wide range of the gonadosomatic index suggests that spawning occurs several times during the year.