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Annals of Biological Research

Abstract

[Aging and Morphology of otolith in Barbus bracycephalus caspius](#)

[and B. capito in the southern Caspian Sea](#)

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The aim of this study is to provide necessary information on the age, growth and sex ratio of two important cyprinids species of *Barbus brachycephalus caspius* and *B. capito* in the southern Caspian Sea located in the northern part of Iran during 2010-2011. A total of 81 specimens of both species (48 males and 41 females) were collected monthly during 2010-2011. The samples were transferred from landings to the laboratory for further biological measurements and otolith extraction. The maximum age of *B. brachycephalus caspius* was 5+ (TL= 48.3 cm) and for *B. capito* was 4+ for a fish with TL= 38.6 cm. The mean TL of sampled *B. brachycephalus caspius* and *B. capito* were 27.53 ± 6.13 and 23.38 ± 4.35 cm, respectively; and the sex ratio were 1.0: 0.95 and 1.0: 0.93, respectively. The length-weight relationship estimated for all individuals of both species were as $W=0.011TL^{2.939}$ ($R^2=0.881$) and $W=0.004TL^{3.179}$ ($R^2=0.951$), respectively. Different regressions were prepared between age and morphological measurements of fish and otolith, of which the highest correlation for *B. brachycephalus caspius* was between age and otolith weight (g) as a linear regression of $OW=0.0005Age + 0.0022$ ($r=0.854$); and for *B. capito* showed higher correlation ($r=0.955$). There was no significant correlation between morphometric measurements for both otolith and fish parameters of *B. capito* ($p > 0.05$).

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