

17) RAPID #
-409626



-409626

BORROWER
AUM



128.119.169.34

System Date/Time: 03/25/2004 09:03:29

CALL #: QH301 .A493
LOCATION: Washington State Owen

TYPE: Article
USER JOURNAL TITLE: European archives of biology
OCLC JOURNAL TITLE: European archives of biology
NTE CATALOG TITLE: European archives of biology.
ARTICLE TITLE: : REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF THE WHITE PIAU SCHIZODON-
KNERII STEINDACHNER 1875 ANOSTOMIDAE FROM A RESERVOIR IN
SOUTHEAST BRAZIL.
VOLUME: 101
NO: 3
YEAR: 1990(1990)
COPYRIGHT: CCL
PAGES: 331
ISSN: 0777-0553
OCLC #: 20335057
VERIFIED:

PATRON: Godinho,Alexandre
PATRON ID: 0
PATRON PHONE:
PATRON DEPT: Natural Resources Conservation
PATRON STATUS: DoctoralCandidate
PATRON FAX:
PATRON ADDRESS:
PATRON E-MAIL:
PATRON NOTES:

RAPID LENDING STATISTICS

REQUEST TYPE:
____ (L) oan
____ (P) hotcopy
____ (U) nfilled

CHARGES: 0

EXPOSURES: _____

UNFILLED REASON: _____

SENT OUT VIA:
____ (C) ourier
____ (A) riel
____ Federal E(X)press
____ (M) ail
____ (F) ax
____ (O) ther

DATE COMPLETE: _____

**REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF
THE WHITE-PIAU, *Schizodon knerii*
(Steindachner, 1875) (Anostomidae)
FROM A RESERVOIR IN SOUTHEAST BRAZIL**

BY

R. M. A. FERREIRA and H. P. GODINHO.

(Department of Morphology, Institute of Biological Sciences,
Federal University of Minas Gerais, 30270 Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil)

(Received August 28, 1989; revised and accepted December 12, 1989)

SUMMARY — *White-piau* (*Schizodon knerii*), one of the most important fish in commercial catches at Três Marias reservoir in the San Francisco river, has its reproductive biology been under investigation for the first time. Ovaries and testes of the white-piau are of the cystoovarian and lobular types, respectively. The reproductive period of this species extends from October to April similarly to that of most species of Southeast Brazil. This period coincides with the rainy season, high water temperature and long daylength. Females are in better "condition" when outside the reproductive period. The amount of fat accumulated within abdominal cavity follows the cyclic variation in the reservoir water level. The white-piau is a fractional spawner, has adhesive eggs and spawning occurs within reservoir waters. Females were induced to spawn in captivity with crude carp pituitary extract.

Key words : Teleost fish, *Schizodon knerii*, reproductive biology, artificial spawning, Três Marias Reservoir, tropical reservoir.

INTRODUCTION

The growing demand on hydroelectric power in Brazil has been matched with the construction of large hydroelectric reservoirs (<1,000 Km² of impounded area). Três Marias reservoir at the San Francisco river (Fig. 1), the oldest among these, was built in the early 60' and only recently has its fishery resources been under

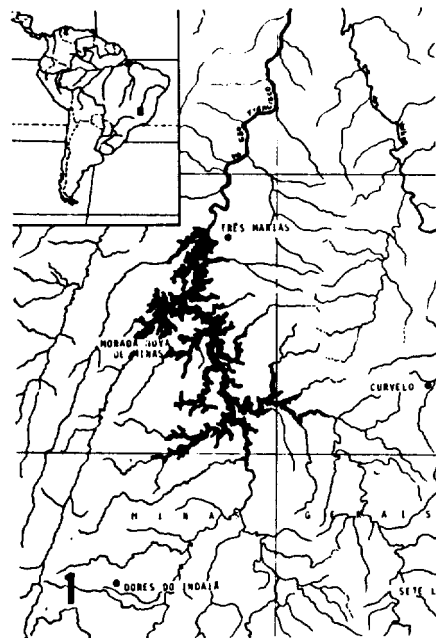


FIG. 1. Três Marias reservoir (insert = general location) in the San Francisco River at the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil (18 - 20 °S, 44 - 46 °W).

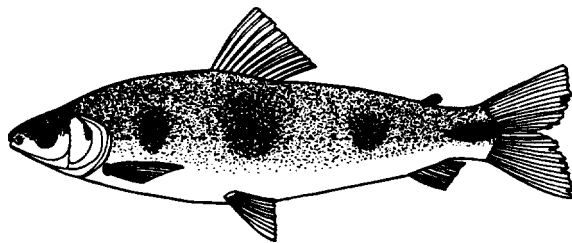


FIG. 2. Schematic drawing of the white-piau (*Schizodon knerii*).

evaluation. Commercial fishery at Três Marias is performed by approximately 150 fishermen. Gill nets are the fishing gear used. Annual production is estimated to be around 400 metric tons and the white-piau (*Schizodon knerii* Steindachner, 1875) being one of its most important species (SATO & OSÓRIO, 1987).

Anostomidae fish, to which belongs the white-piau, are herbivorous and found in large rivers (BRITSKI *et alii*, 1984). White-piau

feeds mainly on macrophytes, algae and s... (BRITSKI, 1984). The largest white-piaus captured during 1981-1986 had 35 cm, standard length, whereas commercial fish weights were 1.5 kg (pers. com.).

The reproduction cycle of this fish is not yet reported, to our knowledge, for the first time. The propagation of this species is also given

MATERIAL AND METHODS

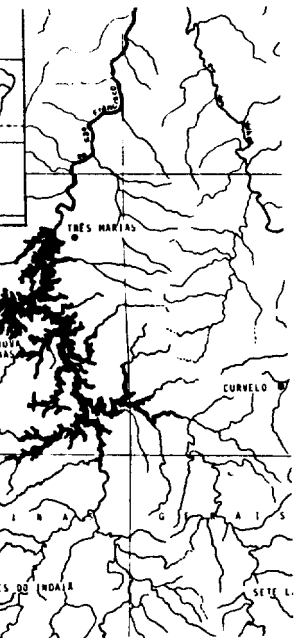
The fish were captured from May, 1982 to June 1983, using gill nets placed in the water in late afternoon and retrieved in the early morning of the next day. 1,201 fish were captured, 600 greater than 13.6 cm (males) and 14.7 cm (females).

The following parameters were obtained: body weight (BW), standard length (SL), gonad weight (GW), reproductive cycle (SRC), weight of one gonad (LW) and abdominal fat weight (AFW). The SRC was divided into: 1 = resting; 2A = initial maturation; 2B = maturation; 3 = mature; 4A = partially spawned; 4B = spawned. The SRC were: 1 = non-reproduction (total); 2 = reproduction (total). Gonad fragments were fixed in Bouin's solution for histological studies which included microscopic evaluation of the gonads and estimation of the relative frequency of the spawning (SOM). The latter was obtained through the formula (1946) modified by AMANN (1962):

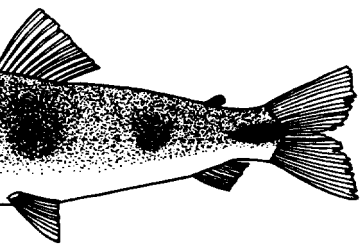
The fish (363 females, 434 males) captured during the period of May, 1983 to October, 1984 had their BW and gonad weight (macroscopically) obtained.

The following indexes were then calculated: condition factor (index) = $GW \times 200/BW$, HSI (hepatosomatic index) = $100/BW$, AFI (abdominal fat index) = AFW/BW , (condition factor) = $BW \times 100/SL^3$.

Three females and three males were injected with crude carp pituitary extract according to the method described in WOYNAROVICH & HORVÁTH (1980). T



= general location) in the San Francisco River at the 20 °S, 44 - 46 °W).



white-piau (*Schizodon knerii*).

ery at Três Marias is performed by ap-
Gill nets are the fishing gear used. An-
d to be around 400 metric tons and the
rii Steindachner, 1875) being one of its
ATO & Osório, 1987).
hich belongs the white-piau, are her-
rivers (BRITSKI *et alii*, 1984). White-piau

feeds mainly on macrophytes, algae and sediment (BOTELHO & TORRES, 1984). The largest white-piaus captured in experimental catches during 1981-1986 had 35 cm, standard length, and 1 Kg, body weight, whereas commercial fish weighed circa 0.2-0.3 Kg (SATO, pers. com.).

The reproduction cycle of this fish at Três Marias reservoir is reported, to our knowledge, for the first time. Data on artificial propagation of this species is also given.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

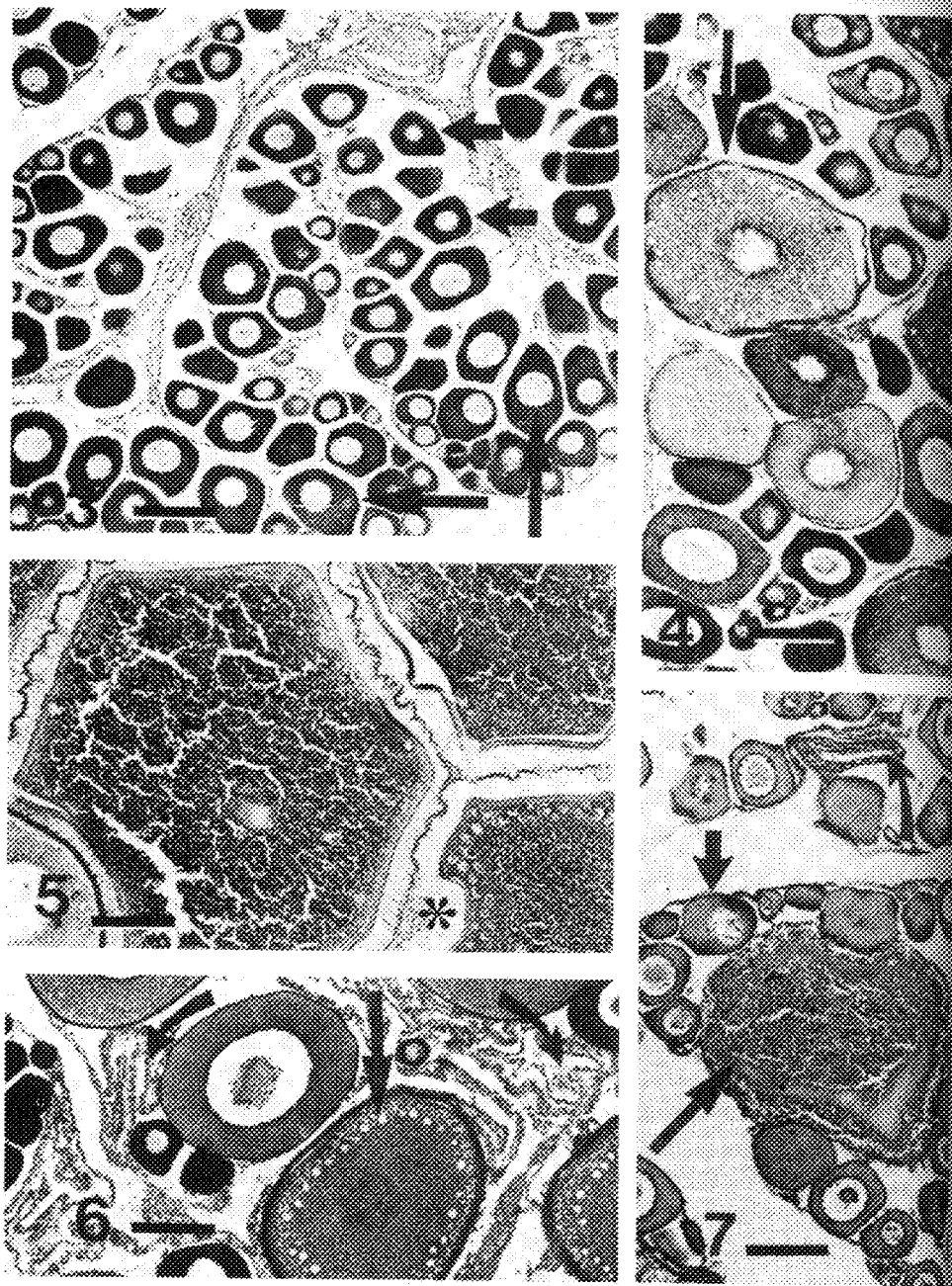
The fish were captured from May, 1982 to October, 1984 with gill nets placed in the water in late afternoon and removed in the early morning of the next day. 1,201 fish with standard length greater than 13.6 cm (males) and 14.7 (females) were used.

The following parameters were obtained from fish captured in the period of May, 1982 to June 1983 (197 females and 207 males) : body weight (BW), standard length (SL), sex (M,F), stages of the reproductive cycle (SRC), weight of one gonad (GW), liver weight (LW) and abdominal fat weight (AFW). Female SRC were : 1 = resting; 2A = initial maturation; 2B = advanced maturation; 3 = mature; 4A = partially spawned; 4B = totally spawned. Male SRC were : 1 = non-reproduction (totally spent/resting); 2 = reproduction (2A = in maturation/mature; 2B = partially spent). Gonad fragments were fixed in Bouin's liquid for histological studies which included microscopic evaluation of the SRC and estimation of the relative frequency of the stages of oocyte maturation (SOM). The latter was obtained through ABERCROMBIE's formula (1946) modified by AMANN (1962).

The fish (363 females, 434 males) captured in the period of July, 1983 to October, 1984 had their BW, SL, S and SRC (only macroscopically) obtained.

The following indexes were then calculated : GSI (gonadosomatic index) = $GW \times 200/BW$, HSI (hepatosomatic index) = $LW \times 100/BW$, AFI (abdominal fat index) = $AFW \times 100/BW$ and K (condition factor) = $BW \times 100/SL^3$.

Three females and three males were induced to reproduce with crude carp pituitary extract according to the technique described in WOYNAROVICH & HORVÁTH (1980). This work was performed



at the Fishery Station of Três Marias, State of Minas Gerais, in December, 1985.

The regression analysis and the other statistical tests used in the present paper were performed according to

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

White-piau (Fig. 2) presents a pair of sololateral portions of the coelomatic cavity, each containing a pair of ovaries and a pair of testes. The ovaries are of the cystovarian type, and the testes are of the lobular type (BILLARD, 1978). The papilla they unite to each other to form a single duct. Macroscopic changes in size and color occur during the reproductive cycle.

The histological organization of the ovaries of white-piau is similar to that of other Brazilian characiform fish (ANDRADE & BAZZOLI, 1985; TAVARES, 1986). The seminiferous tubules of white-piau contain cysts inside which all oocytes are in the same stage of development. Cysts are present along the whole length of the seminiferous tubule. The testis of this fish belongs to the « unilocular » type of GRIER *et al.* (1980) and GRIER (1981). The cells that constitute the wall of these cysts (GRIER, 1981) are the same as those found in the lumen of the seminiferous tubules (SHERESTHA & KHANNA, 1976).

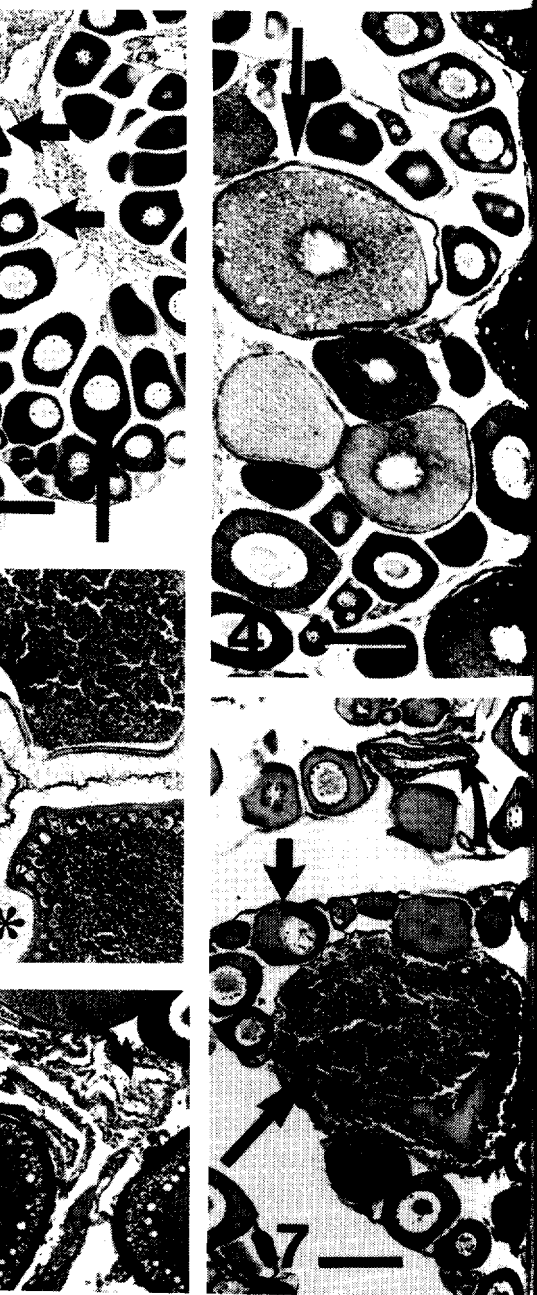
Table 1 and 2 and Figures 3 to 11 present the characteristics of females and males during the reproductive cycle.

The log transformed data on length and weight of females and males, respectively, are given by the following equations:

$$\ln BW = -4,147 + 3,078 \ln TL$$

$$\ln BW = -3,692 + 2,918 \ln TL$$

FIGS. 3 to 7 depict histological sections of white-piau ovaries during different stages of the oocyte cycle (paraffin embedded, 7 μ m thick, haematoxylin-eosin stained). FIG. 3. Resting stage; short arrows = type 1 oocyte; FIG. 4. Initial maturation stage; arrow = type 3 oocyte; FIG. 5. Advanced maturation stage; large type 4 oocyte and prismatic follicular cells; FIG. 6. Partially spent stage; straight arrow = type 3 oocyte; FIG. 7. Totally spent stage; short arrow = type 1 oocyte; long arrow = type 4 oocyte in reabsorption.



at the Fishery Station of Três Marias (CODEVASF), Três Marias, State of Minas Gerais, in December, 1985.

The regression analysis and the other statistical calculations of the present paper were performed accordingly to RICKER (1975).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

White-piau (Fig. 2) presents a pair of gonads situated in the dorso-lateral portion of the coelomatic cavity, ventrally to the gaseous vesicle. The ovaries are of the cystovarian type (HOAR, 1969), and the testes are of the lobular type (BILLARD, 1986). Near the genital papila they unite to each other to form a single excretory duct. Macroscopic changes in size and color of the gonads are seen during the reproductive cycle.

The histological organization of the gonads are similar to that of other Brazilian characiform fish (ANDRADE & GODINHO, 1983; BAZZOLI, 1985; TAVARES, 1986). The seminiferous tubules of the white-piau contain cysts inside which all the gametogenic cells are in the same stage of development. Cysts of spermatogonia are seen along the whole length of the seminiferous tubules. For this reason the testis of this fish belongs to the « unrestricted spermatogonial type » of GRIER *et al.* (1980) and GRIER (1981). Sertoli cells which constitute the wall of these cysts (GRIER, 1976; GRIER, 1981) disrupt at the final stage of spermiogenesis and release the spermatozoa in the lumen of the seminiferous tubules (RUBY & McMILLAN, 1975; SHERESTHA & KHANNA, 1976).

Table 1 and 2 and Figures 3 to 11 present the main reproductive characteristics of females and males during the reproductive cycle.

The log transformed data on length/weight relationship for females and males, respectively, are given in the formulae below :

$$\ln BW = -4,147 + 3.078 \ln SL, \text{ and}$$

$$\ln BW = -3,692 + 2.923 \ln SL$$

FIGS. 3 to 7 depict histological sections of white-piau ovaries at different stages of the reproductive cycle (paraffin embedded, 7 μ m thick, haematoxylin-eosin stained, bar = 100 μ m) :

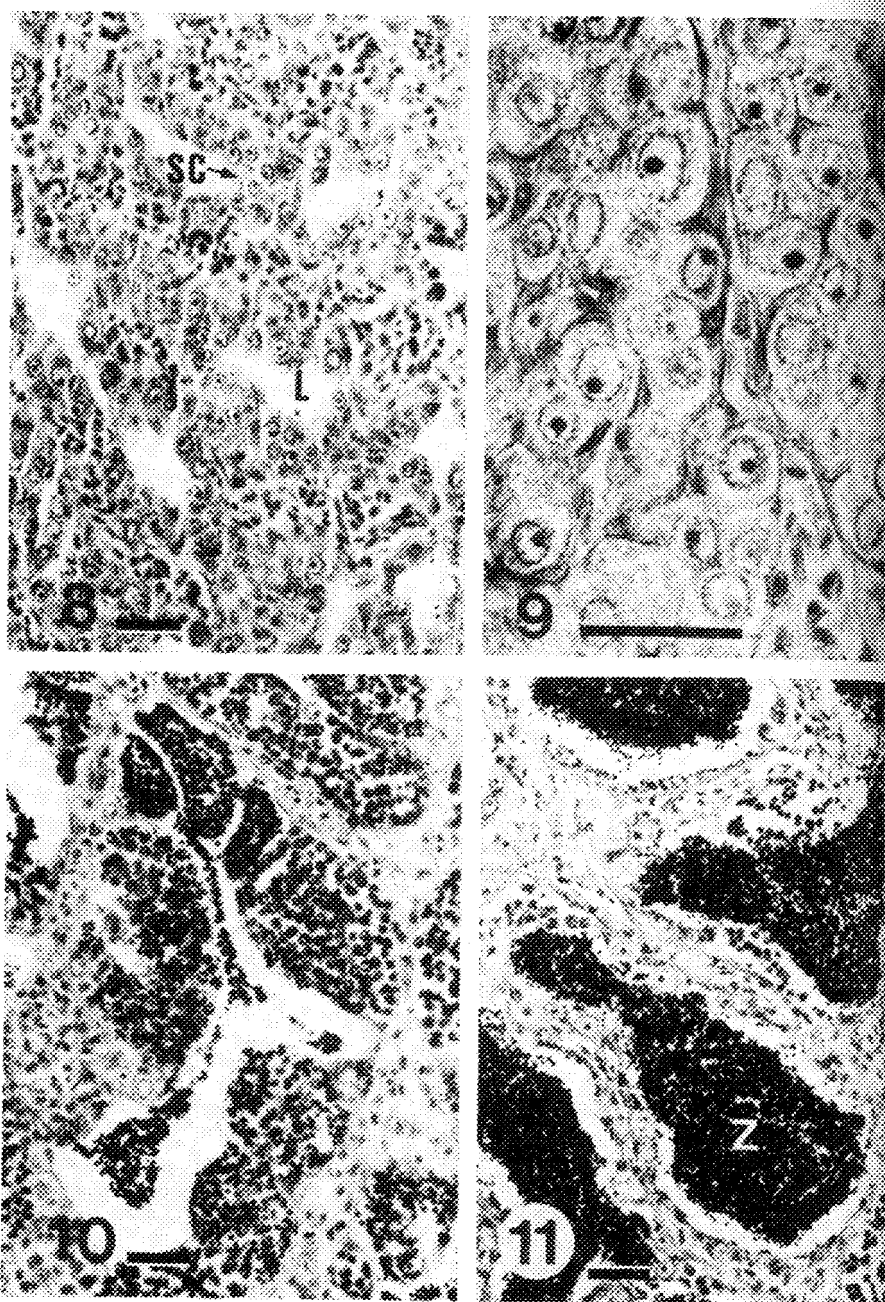
FIG. 3. Resting stage; short arrows = type 1 oocyte; long arrows = type 2 oocyte.

FIG. 4. Initial maturation stage; arrow = type 3 oocyte.

FIG. 5. Advanced maturation stage; large type 4 oocyte at the center; asterisks = highly prismatic follicular cells.

FIG. 6. Partially spent stage; straight arrow = type 3 oocyte; bent arrows = empty follicles.

FIG. 7. Totally spent stage; short arrow = type 1 oocyte; bent arrow = empty follicle; long arrow = type 4 oocyte in reabsorption.



Isometrically growth (LE CREN, 1951; white-piau since the regression coefficient of the logarithmic regression curves) is close to 3. SATO & BARBIER (1978), with similar results, have considered it to be

Fig. 12 shows the relative frequency of the stages of maturation during the reproductive cycle. Type 3 oocytes (in vitellogenesis) predominate in the early part of the reproductive cycle. Type 1 oocytes (previtellogenic) predominate in the late part of the cycle. Type 2 oocytes (complete vitellogenesis) are seen at the beginning of the cycle and also in process of reabsorption. Only about 10% of the previtellogenic oocytes undergo vitellogenesis within one reproductive cycle and are extruded. The oocyte dynamics in the white-piau is asynchronous which is the most common pattern (WALLACE & SELMAN, 1981).

Data on K, GSI and HSI of females at different stages of the reproductive cycle are in Fig. 13. Females are in vitellogenesis (LE CREN, 1951) when outside the reproductive cycle. The values of GSI and HSI were found at the stages of vitellogenesis and partially spent. This finding suggested as an indicator of the reproduction of white-piau from man made reservoirs (RAHMAN & MURPHY, 1984). Variations of these parameters during the reproductive cycle are compressive (Fig. 14).

Fig. 15 shows monthly AFI's of female white-piau. The highest monthly AFI values occurred in September. Thereafter they gradually decreased to low values in January-February to raise again in March. This variation follows behind that of submerged littoral macrophytes during the reproductive period possibly are transformed into

FIGS. 8 to 11 are light photomicrographs of white-piau reproductive cycle (paraffin embedded, 7 μ m thick). FIG. 8. Non-reproduction stage; totally spent testis; lumen open; luminal spermatozoa are absent; SC = cysts of spermatozoa; 425 \times . FIG. 9. Non-reproduction stage; resting testis showing collapse of seminiferous tubules; 1088 \times . FIG. 10. Reproduction stage; maturing testis; wall of seminiferous tubules is thickened; various stages of spermatogenesis; 425 \times . FIG. 11. Reproduction stage; mature testis; lumina containing spermatozoa (Z); 425 \times .



Isometrically growth (LE CREN, 1951) may be ascribed to the white-piau since the regression coefficient (b value in above formulae) is close to 3. SATO & BARBIERI (1983), although relating similar results, have considered it to be of the allometric type.

Fig. 12 shows the relative frequency (%) of oocytes at different stages of maturation during the reproductive cycle. Type 1 and 2 oocytes (previtellogenic) predominate in all stages of the reproductive cycle. Type 3 oocytes (in vitellogenesis) are present in ovaries at initial maturation and in those partially spent. Type 4 oocytes (complete vitellogenesis) are seen at the stage of advanced maturation and also in process of reabsorption in ovaries totally spent. Only about 10% of the previtellogenic oocytes complete vitellogenesis within one reproductive cycle and may eventually be extruded. The oocyte dynamics in the white-piau follows the group-synchronous pattern which is the most common type among teleosts (WALLACE & SELMAN, 1981).

Data on K, GSI and HSI of females at each stage of the reproductive cycle are in Fig. 13. Females are in better « condition » (LE CREN, 1951) when outside the reproductive period. Peak values of GSI and HSI were found at the stages of advanced maturation and partially spent. This finding suggests that the GSI may be used as an indicator of the reproduction period as in other teleosts from man made reservoirs (RAHMAN & MOGHRABY, 1984; TOMASSON *et al.*, 1984). Variations of these parameters in males were inexpressive (Fig. 14).

Fig. 15 shows monthly AFI's of females and males. In both sexes, higher monthly AFI values occurred in the period of July-September. Thereafter they gradually diminished to reach lowest values in January-February to raise again in the following months. This variation follows behind that of the reservoir water level. Submerged littoral macrophytes during the reservoir water raising period possibly are transformed into feeding resources for the

FIGS. 8 to 11 are light photomicrographs of white-piau testis at different stages of the reproductive cycle (paraffin embedded, 7 μ m thick, haematoxylin-eosin stained).

FIG. 8. Non-reproduction stage; totally spent testis; lumen (L) of seminiferous tubules is open; luminal spermatozoa are absent; SC = cysts of spermatogonia; 425 \times .

FIG. 9. Non-reproduction stage; resting testis showing only cysts of spermatogonia; lumen of seminiferous tubules is collapsed; 1088 \times .

FIG. 10. Reproduction stage; maturing testis; wall of seminiferous tubules shows cysts at various stages of spermatogenesis; 425 \times .

FIG. 11. Reproduction stage; mature testis; lumina of seminiferous tubules packed with spermatozoa (Z); 425 \times .

TABLE 1. Reproductive characteristics of white-piau females from Três Marias reservoir during the reproductive cycle.

Stage	Characteristics
Resting (Fig. 3)	Thin, flattened and translucent ovaries, containing types 1 and 2 oocytes. Type 1 oocyte : $57.3 \pm 26.7 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter; homogeneous and basophil cytoplasm; vesiculous nucleus with peripheral nucleoli. Type 2 oocyte : $109.5 \pm 38 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter; cytoplasm is granular with vitellinic nucleus; nucleus is similar to that of type 1 oocyte; thin zona pelucida; squamous follicular cells.
Initial maturation (Fig. 4)	Size of ovaries is increased; gray oocytes are observed with naked eyes; type 1, 2 and 3 oocytes are present. Type 3 oocyte : $284.5 \pm 69.2 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter, vitellinic vesicles at the cytoplasm periphery, central nucleus with smaller number of nucleoli; zona pelucida becomes evident; cubic follicular cells; thin theca.
Advanced maturation (Fig. 5)	Ovaries are pale green in colour and greatly increased in size; type 1, 2, 3 and 4 oocytes are present. Type 4 oocyte : $545.4 \pm 97.4 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter; cytoplasm is filled with vitellinic globules; nucleus is excentric in some oocytes, high prismatic follicular cells; thick zona pelucida; theca well evident.
Mature	Final maturation of oocytes occurs at this stage; fish at this stage were not identified due to the methods used in the present work.
Partially spent (Fig. 6)	Ovaries are reduced in size, with hemorrhagic areas; type 1, 2, 3 and 4 oocytes are present intermingled with empty follicles.
Totally spent (Fig. 7)	Ovaries are flaccid, opaque, with hemorrhagic areas; type 1 and 2 oocytes are present; remaining type 4 oocytes are in reabsorption process; empty follicles present.

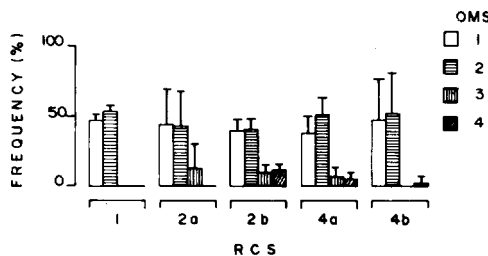


FIG. 12. Relative frequency (%) of the different oocyte maturation stage (OMS) at each stage of the reproductive cycle (RCS) of white-piau from Três Marias reservoir.

white-piau. The importance of this ecosystem on white-piau feeding strategy has been emphasized by ESTEVES & SATO (1986). Probably, such water level fluctuation along the year may play a more important role in the variation of the abdominal fat content than the stage of the reproductive cycle.

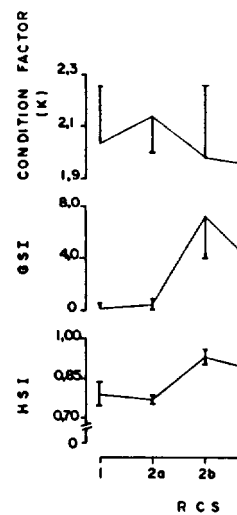


FIG. 13. Condition factor (K), gonadosomatic index (GSI) and hepatosomatic index (HSI) at each stage of the reproductive cycle (RCS) of white-piau from Três Marias reservoir.

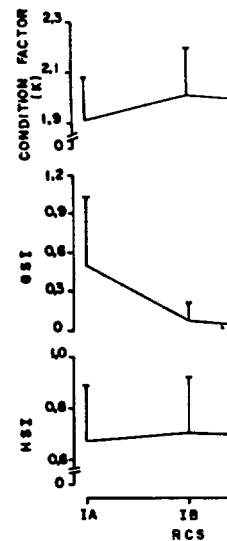


FIG. 14. Condition factor (K), gonadosomatic index (GSI) and hepatosomatic index (HSI) at each stage of the reproductive cycle (RCS) of white-piau from Três Marias reservoir.

of white-piau females from Três Marias reservoir

Characteristics

med and translucent ovaries, containing types 1 and
 Type 1 oocyte : $57.3 \pm 26.7 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter;
 us and basophyl cytoplasm; vesiculous nucleus with
 nucleoli. Type 2 oocyte : $109.5 \pm 38 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter;
 granular with vitellinic nucleus; nucleus is similar
 e 1 oocyte; thin zona pelucida; squamous follicular

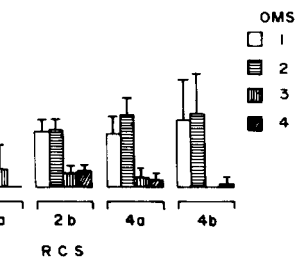
es is increased; gray oocytes are observed with nak-
 1, 2 and 3 oocytes are present. Type 3 oocyte : 284.5
 in diameter, vitellinic vesicles at the cytoplasm
 entral nucleus with smaller number of nucleoli; zona
 omes evident; cubic follicular cells; thin theca.

pale green in colour and greatly increased in size;
 and 4 oocytes are present. Type 4 oocyte : $545.4 \pm$
 diameter; cytoplasm is filled with vitellinic globules;
 centric in some oocytes, high prismatic follicular cells;
 pelucida; theca well evident.

ation of oocytes occurs at this stage; fish at this stage
 ntified due to the methods used in the presente work.

reduced in size, with hemorrhagic areas; type 1, 2,
 ytes are present intermingled with empty follicles.

laccid, opaque, with hemorrhagic areas; type 1 and
 present; remaining type 4 oocytes are in reabsorp-
 empty follicles present.



e different oocyte maturation stage (OMS) at each
 of white-piau from Três Marias reservoir.

of this ecosystem on white-piau feeding
 d by ESTEVES & SATO (1986). Probably,
 along the year may play a more im-
 of the abdominal fat content than the
 cycle.

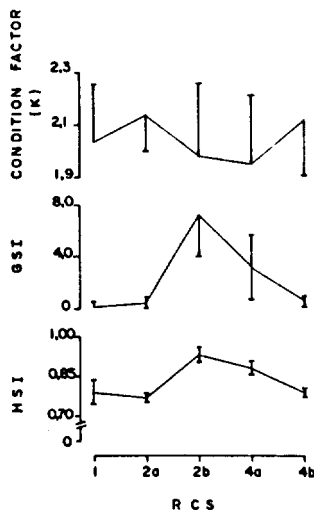


FIG. 13. Condition factor (K), gonadosomatic index (GSI) and hepatosomatic index (HSI) at each stage of the reproductive cycle (RCS) of white-piau females from Três Marias reservoir.

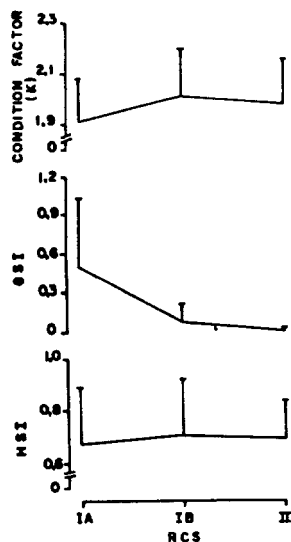


FIG. 14. Condition factor (K), gonadosomatic index (GSI) and hepatosomatic index (HSI) at each stage of the reproductive cycle (RCS) of white-piau males from Três Marias reservoir.

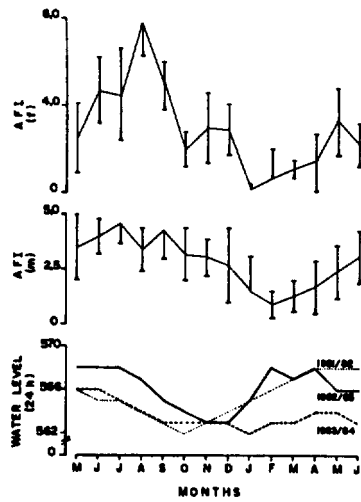


Fig. 15. Monthly abdominal fat index (AFI) of females (f) and males (m) of white-piau and Três Marias reservoir historical water level.

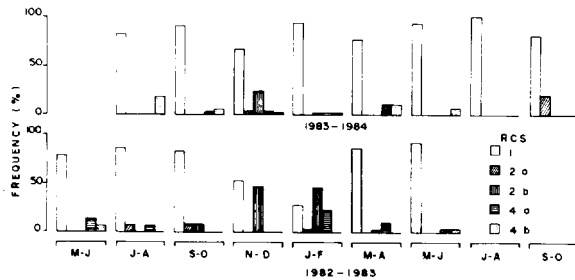


Fig. 16. Bimonthly relative frequency (%) of female reproductive cycle stages (RCS) of white-piau from Três Marias reservoir from 1982 to 1984.

The reproductive period of the white-piau extends from October to April (Figs. 16, 17). The cyclic reproductive pattern of fish from Três Marias reservoir (GODINHO, 1984; BAZZOLI, 1985; TAVARES, 1986; TELES, 1989; present paper) tends to follow that found in the fish from the rest of Southeast Brazil. They usually reproduce during the rainy season, when the water temperature and daylength are at their highest values in the year (Fig. 18). Capture of white-piaus in all stages of the reproductive cycle and their alevins (pers. obs.) gives support to GODINHO (1984) who mention the reproduction of this species within Três Marias waters. However, the exact site of spawning and its reproductive behaviour remain unknown.

TABLE 2. Reproductive characteristics of white-piau during the reproductive cycle.

Stage	Characteristics
Non-reproduction (Figs. 8, 9)	Testes totally spent (FIG. 8); reduced in size, flacid, whitish; matogonia and residual seminiferous tubules may be seen and translucent containing sperm; tubules lumina are empty
Reproduction (Figs. 10, 11)	Testes in maturation (FIG. 10); were classified as in reproduction and whitish; cysts of all sizes are present in the lumen of seminiferous tubules in large amounts. Fish with mature testes under pressure; it has only cysts of sperm; seminiferous tubules are partially spent show hemorrhages; spermatozoa are seen; lumen of seminiferous tubules contains spermatozoa.

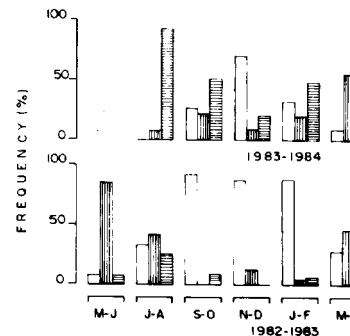
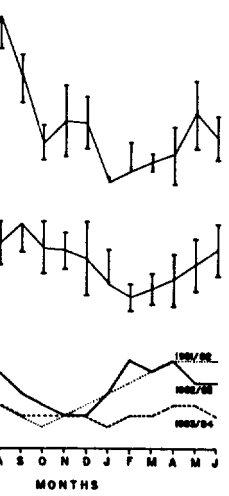
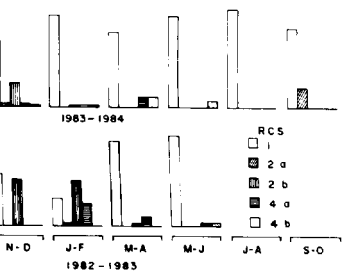


Fig. 17. Bimonthly relative frequency (%) of male reproductive cycle stages (RCS) of white-piau from Três Marias reservoir from 1982 to 1984.

The presence of type 3 and 4 oocyte follicles and the egg adhesiveness at spawning (present paper) suggest that white-piau reproduction is induced. All three white-piau females used in the present paper were successfully induced to spawn with crude extract. The injection of same extract in the males induced the extrusion of oocytes measured, at extrusion, 956 ± 50 .



(AFI) of females (f) and males (m) of white-piau water level.



(%) of female reproductive cycle stages (RCS) of r from 1982 to 1984.

of the white-piau extends from October cyclic reproductive pattern of fish from (GODINHO, 1984; BAZZOLI, 1985; TAVARES, 1985; present paper) tends to follow that found in the northeast Brazil. They usually reproduce in response to the water temperature and daylength throughout the year (Fig. 18). Capture of white-piau during their reproductive cycle and their alevins (pers. communication) (GODINHO, 1984) who mention the reproductive behavior in Três Marias waters. However, the exact reproductive behavior remain unknown.

TABLE 2. Reproductive characteristics of white-piau males from Três Marias reservoir during the reproductive cycle.

Stage	Characteristics
Non-reproduction (Figs. 8, 9)	Testes totally spent (FIG. 8) or resting (FIG. 9). The former are reduced in size, flacid, with hemorrhagic areas; cysts of spermatogonia and residual spermatozoa in the lumen of the seminiferous tubules may be seen. Resting testes are thin shaped and translucent containing only spermatogial cysts; seminiferous tubules lumina are empty and collapsed.
Reproduction (Figs. 10, 11)	Testes in maturation (FIG. 10), mature (FIG. 11) or partially spent were classified as in reproduction. Testes in maturation are thick and whitish; cysts of all spermatogenic cells are seen; spermatozoa are present in the lumen of the seminiferous tubules in variable amounts. Fish with mature testes expel semen under abdominal pressure; it has only cysts of spermatogonia and the lumen of seminiferous tubules are packed with spermatozoa. Testes partially spent show hemorrhagic areas; only cysts of spermatogonia are seen; lumen of seminiferous tubules contains reduced amount of spermatozoa.

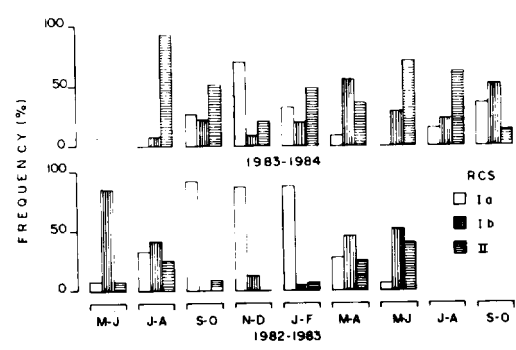


FIG. 17. Bimonthly relative frequency (%) of male reproductive cycle stages (RCS) of white-piau from Três Marias reservoir from 1982 to 1984.

The presence of type 3 and 4 oocytes coincidently with empty follicles and the egg adhesiveness at spawning (SATO *et al.*, 1985; present paper) suggest that white-piau is a fractional spawner.

All three white-piau females used in the present paper were successfully induced to spawn with crude carp pituitary extract. The injection of same extract in the males helped to milt them. The oocytes measured, at extrusion, $956 \pm 55\mu\text{m}$ and, after hydration,

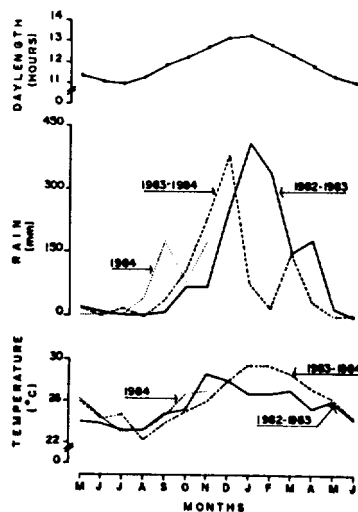


FIG. 18. Monthly daylength (hours), rain (mm) and Três Marias reservoir historical water temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$).

$1222 \pm 69 \mu\text{m}$. The number of oocyte. g^{-1} of ova was 1898 ± 77 . Extrusion was performed at 212 degree-hours and hatching occurred at 497 degree-hours, the water temperature being $23.5 - 24.5^{\circ}\text{C}$. Shrub (*Cupressus* sp) stems were placed into the incubators to serve as egg substrate. Data on degree-hours at extrusion and hatching, oocyte size and its strong adhesiveness correspond to those obtained by SATO *et al.* (1985).

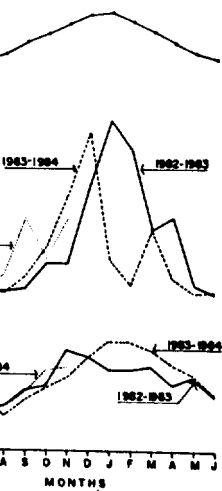
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author are grateful to the staff of Três Marias Fisheries Station (Codevasf) for the field help during the course of the work. Thanks are also due to the Brazilian CNPq for its partial support.

REFERENCES

- ABERCROMBIE, M. — Estimation of nuclear populations from microtome sections. *Anat. Rec.* **94** : 238-248 (1946).
 AMANN, R. P. — Reproductive capacity of dairy bulls. III. The effect of ejaculation frequency, unilateral vasectomy, and age on spermatogenesis. *Am. J. Anat.*, **110** : 49-68 (1962).

- ANDRADE, D. R. and H. P. GODINHO — Annual maturation cycle of the teleost fish *Leporinus silvestrii* (Boulenger, 1906) (1983).
 BAZZOLI, N. — Biologia reprodutiva do peixe-cachorro (Characidae, Acestrohynchinae) da represa de Três Marias. MG. Master Thesis, Federal University of Minas Gerais (1984).
 BILLARD, R. — Spermatogenesis and spermatology of *Leporinus silvestrii*. *Nut. Dévelop.*, **26** (4) : 877-920 (1986).
 BOTELHO, P. M. A. and G. TORRES — Estudo do regime de chuvas em Três Marias. Proc. XI Brazil. Congr. Zool., Belém., p. 255 (1984).
 BRITSKI, H. A., Y. SATO and A. B. S. ROSA — Manual de identificação de peixes da represa de Três Marias (com chaves de identificação para a família Characidae). Câmara dos Deputados/CODEVASF, Brasília (1984).
 ESTEVES, F. A. and Y. SATO — Importância da vegetação dos peixes da represa de Três Marias. V Reun. Anual da Sociedade Brasileira de Zootecnia, p. 55 (abstract) (1986).
 GODINHO, H. P. — Reprodução dos peixes da represa de Três Marias. *Horizonte*, **10** (110) : 29-34 (1984).
 GRIER, H. J. — Sperm development in the teleost fish *Leporinus silvestrii*. *Zool.*, **21** : 419-431 (1976).
 GRIER, H. J. — Cellular organization of the testis of *Leporinus silvestrii*. *Zool.*, **21** : 345-357 (1981).
 GRIER, H. J., J. R. LINTON., J. F. LEATHERLAND — Evidence for two different testicular types in teleost fish. *Zool.*, **21** : 749-761 (1976).
 HOAR, W. S. Reproduction. In : W. S. HOAR and D. J. Randall (eds) *Fish Physiology*, Academic Press, London. v. 3, 1-72 (1969).
 LE CREN, E. D. — The length-weight relationship and condition in the perch (*Perca fluviatilis*). *J. Anim. Ecol.*, **34** : 375-384 (1965).
 RAHMAN, A. A. and A. I. MOGHRABY — Breeding of *Leporinus niloticus* in Jebel Aulia reservoir, Sudan. *Hydrobiologia*, **115** : 1-10 (1982).
 RICKER, W. E. — *Computation and interpretation of biological statistics*. Ottawa, Bulletin 191, Department of Fisheries (1979).
 RUBY, S. M. and D. B. MCMILLAN — The interstitial fluid of stickleback. *J. Morphol.*, **145** : 295-318 (1974).
 SHERESTHA, T. K. and S. S. KHANNA — Histology of the testis of a hill-stream fish, *Schizothorax plagiostomus*. *J. Zool.*, **749-761** (1976).
 SATO, Y. and G. BARBIERI — Crescimento de *Schizodon anostomidae* na represa de Três Marias, MG. F. Zool., São Carlos, p. 201-221 (1983).
 SATO, Y., E. L. CARDOSO and S. A. CAPUCHINHO — *Schizodon knerii* da bacia do São Francisco (nordeste do Brasil). *Horizonte*, p. 2-3 (abstract) (1984).
 SATO, Y. and F. M. F. OSÓRIO — A pesca profissional em 1986. V Ann. Meet. Aquacul. Minas Gerais (1986).
 TAVARES, E. F. — Biologia reprodutiva do piau-gorduro (*Schizodon anostomidae*) da represa de Três Marias, rio São Francisco. M. Sc. Thesis, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte (1984).
 TELES, M. E. D. — Biologia reprodutiva da piramita (*Characidae*) da represa de Três Marias. M. Sc. Thesis, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte (1984).
 TÔMASSON, T., J. A. CAMBRY and P. B. N. JACKSON — Reproductive biology of *Leporinus silvestrii* (Cyprinidae) in a man-made lake, Orangeburg, New York. *Trans. Am. Fish. Soc.*, **112** : 179-195 (1984).



rain (mm) and Três Marias reservoir historical water

of oocyte.g⁻¹ of ova was 1898 ± 77. 212 degree-hours and hatching occurred after temperature being 23.5 - 24.5 °C. were placed into the incubators to serve degree-hours at extrusion and hatching, responsiveness correspond to those obtained

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

to the staff of Três Marias Fisheries Station and help during the course of the work. Brazilian CNPq for its partial support.

REFERENCES

nuclear populations from microtome sections. *Anat.*
 capacity of dairy bulls. III. The effect of ejaculation
 and age on spermatogenesis. *Am. J. Anat.*, 110 :

- ANDRADE, D. R. and H. P. GODINHO — Annual male reproductive cycle of the Brazilian teleost fish *Leporinus silvestrii* (Boulenger, 1902). *Arch. Biol. (Bruxelles)*, 94 : 1-14 (1983).
- BAZZOLI, N. — Biologia reprodutiva do peixe-cachorro *Acestrotrichus lacustris* (REINHARDT, 1874) (Characidae, Acestrohynchinae) da represa de Três Marias, rio São Francisco, MG. Master Thesis, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil (1985).
- BILLARD, R. — Spermatogenesis and spermatology of some teleost fish species. *Reprod. Nut. Dévelop.*, 26 (4) : 877-920 (1986).
- BOTELHO, P. M. A. and G. TORRES — Estudo do regime alimentar do piau-branco, *Schizodon knerii* Steindachner, 1875 (Cypriniformes, Anostomidae), da represa de Três Marias. Proc. XI Brazil. Congr. Zool., Belém., p. 255-256 (1984).
- BRITSKI, H. A., Y. SATO and A. B. S. ROSA — *Manual de identificação de peixes da região de Três Marias (com chaves de identificação para os peixes da bacia do São Francisco)*. Câmara dos Deputados/CODEVASF, Brasília, 143, (1984).
- ESTEVEZ, F. A. and Y. SATO — Importância da vegetação terrestre marginal na alimentação dos peixes da represa de Três Marias. V Regional Seminar on Ecology, São Carlos, p. 55 (abstract) (1986).
- GODINHO, H. P. — Reprodução dos peixes da represa de Três Marias. *Inf. Agropec.* (Belo Horizonte), 10 (110) : 29-34 (1984).
- GRIER, H. J. — Sperm development in the teleost *Oryzias latipes*. *Cell Tiss. Res.*, 168 : 419-431 (1976).
- GRIER, H. J. — Cellular organization of the testis and spermatogenesis in fishes. *Amer. Zool.*, 21 : 345-357 (1981).
- GRIER, H. J., J. R. LINTON., J. F. LEATHERLAND and V. L. DE VLAMING — Structural evidence for two different testicular types in teleost fishes. *Amer. J. Anat.*, 159 : 331-345 (1980).
- HOAR, W. S. Reproduction. In : W. S. HOAR and D. J. RANDALL — *Fish physiology*. Academic Press, London. v. 3, 1-72 (1969).
- LE CREN, E. D. — The length-weight relationship and seasonal cycle in gonad weight and condition in the perch (*Perca fluviatilis*). *J. Anim. Ecol.* 2092 : 201-219 (1951).
- RAHMAN, A. A. and A. I. MOGHRABY — Breeding of *Barbus bynni* (Pisces, Cyprinidae) in Jebel Aulia reservoir, Sudan. *Hydrobiologia*, 110 : 319-325 (1984).
- RICKER, W. E. — *Computation and interpretation of biological statistics of fish populations*. Ottawa, Bulletin 191, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (1975).
- RUBY, S. M. and D. B. McMILLAN — The interstitial origin of germinal cells in the testis of stickleback. *J. Morphol.*, 145 : 295-318 (1975).
- SHERESTHA, T. K. and S. S. KHANNA — Histology and seasonal changes in the testes of a hill-stream fish, *Schizothorax plagiostomus*. *Z. Mikrosk. anat. Forsch.*, 90 (45) : 749-761 (1976).
- SATO, Y. and G. BARBIERI — Crescimento de *Schizodon knerii* Steindachner, 1875 (Pisces, Anostomidae) na represa de Três Marias, MG. Proc. III Regional Seminar on Ecology, São Carlos, p. 201-221 (1983).
- SATO, Y., E. L. CARDOSO and S. A. CAPUCHINHO — Reprodução induzida de piau-branco (*Schizodon knerii*) da bacia do São Francisco (nota preliminar). IV Ann. Meet. Aquacul. Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, p. 2-3 (abstract) (1985).
- SATO, Y. and F. M. F. OSÓRIO — A pesca profissional na região de Três Marias, MG, em 1986. V Ann. Meet. Aquacul. Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, p. 91-92 (1987).
- TAVARES, E. F. — Biologia reprodutiva do piau-gordura *Leporinus piau* Fowler, 1941 (Pisces, Anostomidae) da represa de Três Marias, rio São Francisco, MG. Master Thesis, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte (Brazil) (1986).
- TELES, M. E. D. — Biologia reprodutiva da pirambeba *Serrasalmus brandtii* Reinhardt, 1874 (Pisces, Characidae) de represa de Três Marias, rio São Francisco, MG. Master Thesis, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte (Brazil) (1989).
- TÔMASSON, T., J. A. CAMBRY and P. B. N. JACKSON — Reproductive biology of four riverine fishes (Cyprinidae) in a man-made lake, Orange river, South Africa. *Hydrobiologia*, 112 : 179-195 (1984).

- WALLACE, R. A. and K. SELMAN — Cellular and dynamic aspects of oocyte growth in teleosts. *Amer. Zool.*, 21 : 325-343 (1981).
- WOYNAROVICH, E. and L. HORVÁTH — *The artificial propagation of warmwater finfishes - a manual extension*. FAD Fish. Tech. Pap., (201)(1980).

H. P. GODINHO, PhD
 Laboratório de Ictiologia, ICB/UFMG
 30, 270 Belo Horizonte, MG
 Brasil

EFFECTS OF VASECTOMY ON THE EPIDIDYMIUM AND SEMINAL VESICLE OF THE LABORATORY MOUSE

BY

P. SINGH and C. J.

(Department of Zoology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India)

(Received October 5, 1989; revised and accepted November 10, 1989)

SUMMARY — *The changes induced by unilateral (UV) vasectomy in the testis, epididymis and seminal vesicle of laboratory mice belonging to the P. musculus strain were studied. Marked degenerative changes were observed in the epididymal tubules during the first two months post-vasectomy. However, by four to six months post-vasectomy, spermatogenic activity was evident in the epididymis. No changes were observed only in the testis. The vas; the contralateral testis exhibited normal morphology. Leydig cells presented normal morphology. No significant difference was found in the RNA and protein in the testis in operated mice with the controls. Vasectomy induced degenerative changes in the caput and cauda of the epididymis. The degenerative changes were confined to the occluded vas, while the contralateral epididymis presented normal appearance. Concentration of fructose and fructose in the seminal vesicle remained normal in vasectomized mice. The results suggest that vasectomy causes reversible suppression of spermatogenesis and does not affect the endocrine functions of the testis.*

Key words : Testis, epididymis, seminal vesicle, mouse.

INTRODUCTION

Even though vasectomy has gained wide acceptance as a method of male contraception, there are still o