

Appendix A1. Available biological traits for 52 species.

Order	Family	Species	Authority	Maximal body size		Egg size (mm)	Relative fecundity (eggs/kg)	Maturity size (mm)	GSI	Time-span of reproductive period (months)	Multiple spawning	Parental care	Strategy
				St1	St2								
Polypteriformes													
Polypteridae													
		<i>Polypterus endlicheri*</i>	Heckel, 1849	1	1	630	2.5	15000	320	9.2	5	Yes	equilibrium
Osteoglossiformes													
Notopteridae													
		<i>Papycrocranus afr</i>	Günther, 1868		1	590	3.6	531	431	2		Yes	equilibrium
Mormyridae													
		<i>Marcusenius furcoides*</i>	Pellegrin, 1920	1	1	286	1.8	39250	228	14.4	3	Yes	intermediate
		<i>Marcusenius senegalensis*</i>	Steindachner, 1870	1	1	321	1.3	14670	190	18.7	2	Yes	intermediate
		<i>Marcusenius ussheri*</i>	Günther, 1867	1	1	305	1.7	51800	130	15.3	3	Yes	intermediate
		<i>Mormyrops anguilloides*</i>	Linnæus, 1758	1	1	1365	2.1	15550	397	11	6	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Mormyrus hasselquisti</i>	Valen cienn es, 1846	1	1	480	1.85	24300	190	12	3	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Mormyrus nune*</i>	Valen cienn es, 1846	1	1	870	2.2	15820	340	8	5	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Petrocephalus bane</i>	Lacépède, 1803	1	1	183	1.3	46000	110		3	Yes	intermediate
		<i>Petrocephalus bovei*</i>	Valen cienn es, 1846	1	1	100	1.4	61000	67	11.7	4	Yes	periodic
Characiformes													
Hepsetidae													
		<i>Hepsetus odoe*</i>	Bloch, 1794	1	1	580	2.5	15150	160	8.4	6	Yes	equilibrium
Characidae													
		<i>Alestes baremoze*</i>	Joannis, 1835	1	1	325	1.1	224100	175	11.5	2	No	periodic
		<i>Brycinus imberi*</i>	Peters, 1852	1	1	167	1	211000	65	14.6		No	periodic
		<i>Brycinus longipinnis</i>	Günther, 1864	1	1	101	0.95	166000	46	13.5		No	periodic
		<i>Brycinus macrolepidotus*</i>	Valen cienn es, 1849	1	1	530	1.2	182400	180	13.8		No	periodic
		<i>Brycinus nurse*</i>	Rüppell, 1832	1	1	218	1.05	339000	80	19.5	3	No	periodic
		<i>Hydrocynus forskahli*</i>	Cuvier, 1819	1	1	780	1.05	127300	150	8.2	4	No	periodic
		<i>Hydrocynus vittatus</i>	Castelnau, 1861	1	1	550	0.65	201000	300		3	No	periodic
Cypriniformes													
Cyprinidae													
		<i>Laboe coubie*</i>	Rüppell, 1832	1	1	750	1.25	122000	200	8.6	3	No	periodic
		<i>Laboe parvus*</i>	Boulenger, 1902	1	1	350	1	292000	100	19	3	No	periodic
		<i>Laboe roosepoundatus</i>	Paugy, Guégan & Agnès, 1989	1	1	203						No	periodic
		<i>Laboe senegalensis*</i>	Valen cienn es, 1842	1	1	550	1	181500	175	14.3	4	No	periodic
		<i>Rammas senegalensis</i>	Steindachner, 1870	1	1	205	1.35	47700	100	8.3	7	No	intermediate
Siluriformes													
Clariidae													
		<i>Clarias anguillaris</i>	Linnæus, 1758	1	1	605	1.3	62000	235	9.6	5	Yes	intermediate
		<i>Clarias galapinus</i>	Burchell, 1822	1	1	1500	1.8	43700	330	17	5	No	intermediate
		<i>Heterobranchius bidorsalis</i>	Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1809	1	1	688	1.5	22260	285	15.5	4	No	intermediate
		<i>Heterobranchius isopterus</i>	Bleeker, 1863	1	1	430	1.5	122000	255	13.8		Yes	intermediate
		<i>Heterobranchius longifilis</i>	Valen cienn es, 1840	1	1	505	1.6	65000	15		8	No	intermediate
Schilbeidae													
		<i>Schilbe intermedius*</i>	Rüppell, 1832	1	1	500	0.8	505000	125	17	2	No	periodic
		<i>Schilbe mandibularis*</i>	Günther, 1867	1	1	300	0.85	217000	154	9.6	4	No	periodic
		<i>Schilbe myxus</i>	Linnæus, 1758	1	1	350	0.85	253700	100	8	4	No	periodic
Bagridae													
		<i>Auchenoglanis occidentalis</i>	Valen cienn es, 1840	1	1	480	2.6	4150	123	4	4	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Chrysichthys auratus</i>	Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1808	1	1	270	2.2	11980	140	13.2	7	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Chrysichthys maurus*</i>	Valen cienn es, 1839	1	1	415	2.3	19400	120	16.7	6	No	equilibrium
		<i>Chrysichthys nigrodigitatus*</i>	Lacépède, 1803	1	1	485	2.5	17000	195	19.5	5	No	equilibrium
Mochokidae													
		<i>Synodontis bostani*</i>	Daget, 1948	1	1	202	1.2	107000	80	15.4	3	No	periodic
		<i>Synodontis comoensis</i>	Daget & Levêque, 1981	1	1	174						No	periodic
		<i>Synodontis ocellifer</i>	Boulenger, 1900	1	1	360	0.9	126300	151	26.3	5	No	periodic
		<i>Synodontis schall*</i>	Bloch & Schneider, 1801	1	1	370	1.2	125000	150	11.5	4	No	periodic
Malapteruridae													
		<i>Malapterurus electricus</i>	Gmelin, 1789	1	1	1220		11900	160		3	Yes	equilibrium
Perciformes													
Cichlidae													
		<i>Chromidotilapia guntheri*</i>	Sauvage, 1882	1	1	145	2.25	8100	60	3.4	9	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Hemichromis bimaculatus</i>	Gill, 1842	1	1	92	1.2	11700	45	7.1	9	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Hemichromis fasciatus*</i>	Peters, 1852	1	1	204	1.5	30000	90	4.5	8	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Oreochromis aureus</i>	Steindachner, 1864	1	1	370	2.5	1800	190		9	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>	Linnæus, 1758	1	1	395	2.55	3720	160	2.6	9	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Sarotherodon galieus*</i>	Linnæus, 1758	1	1	340	2.3	3900	145	3	9	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Tilapia dagei</i>	Thys van den Audenaerde, 1971	1	1	310					7	Yes	equilibrium
		<i>Tilapia zillii*</i>	Gervais, 1848	1	1	210	1.6	38600	70	4	7	Yes	equilibrium
Centropomidae													
		<i>Lates niloticus*</i>	Linnæus, 1762	1	1	1800	0.7	86000	520	4.5	4	No	periodic
Anabantidae													
		<i>Ctenopoma kingsleyae</i>	Günther, 1896	1	1	135	1.05	103000	115	8.7		Yes	periodic
Chaunidae													
		<i>Parachanna obscura</i>	Günther, 1861		1	341	1.3	19640	245	3.9	5	Yes	intermediate
Synbranchiformes													
Mastacembelidae													
		<i>Aethioma stacembelus nigromarginatus</i>	Boulenger, 1898	1	1	330	2.35	19800	150	12.5	3	No	equilibrium

*Species considered for testing synchrony vs. life history traits
_data from closely related species