

**EFFECT OF DIFFERENT SEX RATIOS ON THE REPRODUCTIVE CAPACITY
OF NILE TILAPIA (*Oreochromis niloticus*) BREEDERS
REARED IN HAPA-IN-POND**

By

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"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will guide you with my eye"

- Psalm 32:8

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF APPENDIX TABLES	x
LIST OF APPENDIX FIGURES	xii
ABSTRACT	xiii
INTRODUCTION	
Background of the Study	1
Statement of the Problem	2
Significance of the Study	3
Objectives of the Study	3
Scope and limitations of the Study	3
Time and Place of the Study	4
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	
Characteristics of Nile Tilapia	5
Tilapia fry	6
Sex Ratio	6
MATERIALS AND METHODS	
Experimental fish	8
Experimental units	8
Experimental treatments	8
Experimental layout	9
Experimental design and lay-out of the study	9
Conditioning of breeders	9
Pairing of breeders	11
Collection of fry	11
Feed Preparation	11
Data Gathered	12
Water Quality Monitoring	13
Statistical Analysis	13
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
Conditioning of broodstocks	14

Fry production of Nile tilapia	14
Initial weight of fish	16
Spawning Rate	16
Survival Rate	16
Final Weight	17
Total of number fry produced	17
Average number of fry produced	17
Average Number of Fry Produced/g BW of breeders	18
Water quality parameters	19
Temperature	19
Dissolved Oxygen	21
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	22
LITERATURE CITED	24
APPENDICES	29

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page
1	Treatments used in the study	9
2	Maturity condition of female Nile tilapia	10
3	Summary of weight, spawning, survival rate, and fry produced at different sex ratios	15
4	Average size of female and male brood stocks	19
5	Means \pm SD of water quality parameters	19

LIST OF FIGURES

Table No.	Title	Page
1	Experimental layout in breeding hapa	9
2	Conditioning of breeders	10
3	Weighing of feeds and feeding	12
4	Weekly Mean Water Temperature	20
5	Weekly Mean Dissolved Oxygen	22

19	Analysis on the Average temperature inside the Breeding Hapa using One Way Anova	35
20	Analysis on the Dissolved Oxygen inside the Breeding Hapa (AM) using One Way Anova	35
21	Analysis on the Dissolved Oxygen inside the Breeding Hapa (PM) using One Way Anova	35
22	Analysis on the Average Dissolved Oxygen inside the Breeding Hapa using One Way Anova	36
23	Analysis on the Average Average Number of Fry Produced/ g BW of breeders (pieces) using One Way Anova	36

LIST OF APPENDIX FIGURES

Figure	Title	Page
1	Preparation of pond in conditioning of breeders	37
2	Hapa net in conditioning of breeders	37
3	Harvesting of brood stocks in conditioning hapa	37
4	Installing of fine mesh net breeding hapa in pond	38
5	Checking of sexual maturity of conditioned breeders	38
6	Weighing of brood stock for pairing	38
7	Stocking of breeders in breeding hapa	39
8	Weighing of feeds	39
9	Feeding of breeders in breeding hapa	39
10	Counting of fry collection	40
11	Weighing of collected fry	40
12	Harvested fry	40

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ABSTRACT

Fish farmers in the grow-out sector often face low fry production that could result to low profit and lack of sufficient knowledge on the best practice of brood stock production in hapa-in-pond.

The objective of the study was to determine the effect of using different sex ratios (male: female) on the reproductive capacity of Nile tilapia. The study had three treatments which were replicated thrice, namely: T1 (1:1), T2 (1:2) and T3 (1:3). Hapa-in-pond was used in conditioning the fish.

The study revealed that the tilapia fry production in T3 (1M:3F) had a highest survival rate, spawning rate, total number of fry produced, average fry produced, average number of fry produced/g body weight of breeders compared to other treatments. Despite these differences, analysis of variance of the three treatments did not show any significant differences ($P>0.05$).

The low production of fry can be attributed to unsuccessful spawning and possibly attributed to the stage of maturity of the female breeders chosen during the pairing stage. Furthermore, the males were larger than the female that may have caused aggression behavior.

This study recommends to investigate the timing of collection of eggs and fry in order to monitor the spawning success, hatchability and survival rate of fry of the fish at different sex ratios.

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LIST OF APPENDIX TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page
1	Initial and final weight of tilapia breeders in conditioning	29
2	Sexual Maturity	30
3	Initial and final weight stocking of female in breeding hapa	31
4	Mean of Water Temperature during conditioning	31
5	Mean of Water Temperature during breeding	32
6	Mean of Dissolved Oxygen during conditioning	32
7	Mean of Dissolved Oxygen during breeding	32
8	Amount of feeds needed for conditioning male and female brood stocks	33
9	Amount of feeds needed in pairing of male and female brood stocks	33
10	Final sampling of fry production data	33
11	Analysis on the survival rate using One Way Anova	34
12	Analysis on the spawning rate using One Way Anova	34
13	Analysis on the weight before spawning using One Way Anova	34
14	Analysis on the weight after spawning using One Way Anova	34
15	Analysis on the total number of fry produced using One Way Anova	34
16	Analysis on the average number of fry produced using One Way Anova	34
17	Analysis on the Temperature inside the Breeding Hapa (AM) using One Way Anova	35
18	Analysis on the Temperature inside the Breeding Hapa (PM) using One Way Anova	35