

Penaeus notialis (Pink Shrimps): Length-Weight Relationships and Condition Factor in Lagos Lagoon, South West, Nigeria

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Abstract The Length-Weight Relationship (LWR) and condition factors (K) of 600 pink shrimps (*Penaeus notialis*) obtained from Makoko Jetty off Lagos Lagoon between January and June, 2009 were studied. The carapace length of *Penaeus notialis* ranged from 2.0 cm to 12.1 cm and 1.4cm to 11.5cm in females and males, respectively. The slope or regression coefficient (b) obtained for Carapace Length-Total Length Relationship ranged from 0.0001 in combined sexes to 1.3889 in males while the intercept (a) varied between 0.4754 and 0.8416. The value for 'b' and 'a' in Carapace Weight-Total Weight Relationship of *P. notialis* was highest in females and males, respectively. In the Carapace Length-Total Weight Relationship, the males' *P. notialis* showed the highest regression constant (a) of 1.2345 and regression coefficient (b) of 0.8059. Generally, the values of the regression coefficient were lower than 3.0 for males, females and combined sexes, reflecting a negative allometric growth of the *P. notialis*. The results showed that there were differences in the condition factors for males and females. The lowest 'K' value for the female species was found in size group 7.5-8.4, while the highest 'K' value was obtained in size group 6.5-7.4. The male species had K values ranging between 0.18 and 80.29. There was variation in condition values for the combined sexes as the size group 1.0 - 1.4 had the highest K-value and size group 6.5 - 7.4 had the lowest K-value.

Keywords *Penaeus notialis*, shrimps, Lagoon, Length, Weight, Carapace

1. Introduction

Pink shrimp, *Penaeus notialis* belongs to the family Penaeidae. It can be distinguished from other families of shrimp due to their antennae, which are longer than their body lengths (Amos and Amos, 1997). The integument is thin, translucent and the overall body colour is highly variable, but generally gray, bluish or red-brown. The carapace has a medial carina that extends nearly to the posterior end of carapace and is bordered by a broad, rounded groove on either side. Ventrally, the rostrum may have 1- 3 teeth (Carvajal and Nebot, 1998). The abdomen has 4 – 6 carinate segments, with the carina of the sixth segment ending in a spine. A dark, distinct spot on the pleural junction between the 3rd and 4th abdominal segments can be used to distinguish this species from other members of the genus. The tail is edged with blue coloration, and the telson has a deep medial groove (Griffith and Wigglesworth, 1993; Amos and Amos, 1997). Pink shrimps are typically found in both estuaries and inhabiting the inner littoral zone along coasts.

They live on muddy bottom by day and migrate upward by night from the region (Ansa, 2005). The youngest size classes of *Penaeus notialis* seek out shallow, less saline areas in estuarine nursery habitats and are often found abundantly in sea-grasses, with older shrimp more likely to utilize patchily distributed sea-grass areas (Adetayo and Kusemiju, 1994; Sanchez, 1997). *Penaeus notialis* is sexually dimorphic, with large males attaining a length of 169 mm and large females reaching over 280 mm. (Jalihal et. al. 1993; Adetayo and Kusemiju, 1994). The adult pink shrimp stock off Lagos Coast has been reported to be replenished by the juveniles and sub-adult from the adjacent Lagos Lagoon (Adetayo and Kusemiju 1994). It therefore follows that the population of the pink shrimp at sea and catches available off the Lagos coast depend primarily on the annual recruitment from the Lagos Lagoon. The distribution of the adult pink shrimp off shore at depths of 15 -25 fathoms (27 – 46m) has been observed by Adetayo and Kusemiju (1994). Due to the economic importance of penaeid shrimps (Pink shrimps) worldwide, particularly in aquaculture, a great effort to understand the growth biology of *Penaeus* spp. has been made in recent years. Growth depends on sex, stage and environmental factors such as temperature (Wyban et al., 1995; Miao and Tu, 1996; Ye et al., 2003; Lopez-Martinez et al., 2003), salinity (Lemos et al., 2001), quantity and quality

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(Dall et al., 1990), lunar cycles (Griffith and Wigglesworth, 1993) and water. Condition factor has been used as an index of growth and feeding intensity (Fagade, 1979). Condition factor decrease with increase in length (Fagade, 1979); and also influences the reproductive cycle in fish (Welcome, 1979). Length-weight regressions have been used frequently to estimate weight from length because direct weight measurements can be time-consuming in the field (Sinovcic et al., 2004). One of the most commonly used analyses of fisheries data is length-weight relationship (Mendes et al., 2004). Although various studies have been carried out regarding Pink shrimps, there is a dearth and paucity of information on Length-weight relationships of this shellfish from this part of the Country. It is on the basis of this that this study was embarked on aiming at providing useful information on the length-weight relationship (LWR) and condition factors of Pink shrimps (*Penaeus notialis*) caught in Lagos Lagoon, Nigeria.

2. Materials and Methods

Description Of Study Area

The Lagos Lagoon (Figure 1) which lies between longitudes 30 20' and 30 40'E and latitudes 60 15' and 60 40' has an area of 208 km² and is the largest of the Lagoon systems of the West African sub-region. It is the largest of the nine coastal lagoons of South-western Nigeria. Others are Yewa, Badagry, Iyagbe, Ologe, Kuramo, Epe, Lekki and Main Lagoons). Characteristically, Lagos Lagoon has a seasonal fluctuation in salinity and high brackish water during the dry season (From December to May), while freshwater condition exists in the rainy season (June – November) (Kusemiju, 1975; Ugwumba and Kusemiju, 1992; Solarin, 1998; Lawal-Are, 2006). Lagos Lagoon receives freshwater from Lekki Lagoon via Epe Lagoon in the North-east, and discharges from Majidun, Agboyi and Ogudu creeks as well as Ogun River in the North-west (Soyinka, 2008; Lawal-Are et al., 2010; Lawal-Are and Nwankwo, 2011).

Catching Of Pink Shrimps

Artisanal Shrimpers (Fishermen) mainly exploit the fisheries. The Shrimpers use wooden boats or canoes with size ranging from 5 to 12m long. The canoes / boats are either paddled or powered by small outboard engines, and manned by an average of two men. From these boats / canoes, the Shrimpers cast their shrimping nets.

Collection of Specimens

Six hundred (600) samples of Pink shrimps (*Penaeus notialis*) were collected on monthly basis between the months of January and June 2009, from the artisanal fishermen from Makoko Jetty area of Lagos Lagoon who carry out mainly *P. notialis* fishery. The specimens (*P. notialis*) were immediately preserved using iced packed cooler and immediately transferred to the Department of Marine Sciences, University of Lagos and kept in the Freezer at -40C for further biological investigations.

Growth Pattern (Length and Weight)

The Carapace Length (CL), Total Length (TL), Rostral Length (RL) and Telson Length (TL) of the *P. notialis* were measured in Centimetres (cm) using the graduated measuring ruler, while the Total Weight (TW) and Carapace Weight (CW) of the *P. notialis* were measured using a Sartorius top loading balance (Model 1100). Total Length measured to the nearest centimetre was obtained by stretching out the curved shrimp and taking lengths from the telson to the base of the eyestalk. The Telson Length was measured from the posterior end of the carapace to the base of the telson while the Carapace Length obtained by cutting off the cephalothoraxes and taking measurements from the posterior end of the carapace to the base of the eyestalk was measured to the nearest centimetre. The Total Weights of whole specimens were made using a Top Beam Balance after excess water had been removed from the shrimp and the measurement was to the nearest gram. The length- weight relationship (LWR) was calculated using the below equation as given by Sparre and Venema (1992).

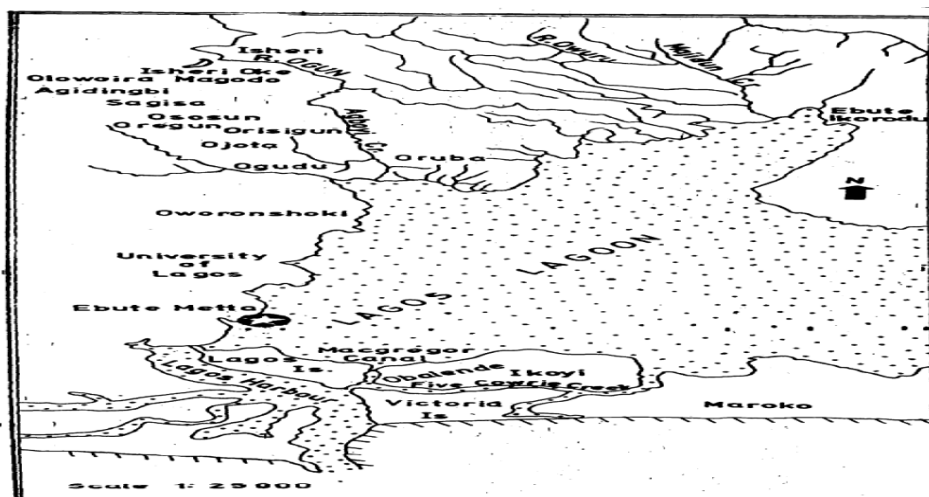


Figure 1. Map showing Lagos Lagoon and other coastal lagoons of South-western Nigeria

$W = aL^b$ Where W = Weight of Pink shrimp in grams (g) L = Length of Pink Shrimp in centimetres (cm) a = Regression constant b = Regression coefficient Conversion of the above equation into a linear relationship using logarithmic transformation gives $\log W = \log a + b \log L$ (Pauly, 1983; Parsons, 1988)

Condition Factor (K)

The condition factor (K) determines the effects of seasonal and habitat difference in the robustness and general well being of the species and the condition factor (k) for the pink shrimps was calculated using the equation below:

$$K = \frac{100W}{L^3} \text{ (Gayanilo and Pauly, 1997)}$$

L^3 Where: L = Length in centimetres (cm); W = Weight in grams (g); K = Condition factor.

Statistical Analysis

The Scatter diagrams were plotted to illustrate the relationship between the carapace length and the carapace weights of the shrimps. The log of carapace lengths and weights were obtained and plotted in order to establish the relationship between them.

3. Results and Discussion

The results of the Length-Weight Relationship (LWR) of 600 pink shrimps (*Penaeus notialis*) obtained from Lagos Lagoon are shown below. The carapace length of *Penaeus notialis* in this study ranged from 2.0 cm to 12.1 cm and 1.4cm to 11.5cm in females and males respectively, while the total length ranged from 3.9cm to 19.9cm. The length-weight relationship was determined following a logarithmic transformation and the total number of samples (n), Regression constant (a), Regression coefficient (b) and Ranges (r) of Length - weight Relationship of *P. notialis* are shown in Tables 1,2 and 3. The slope or regression coefficient (b) obtained for Carapace Length-Total Length Relationship ranged from 0.0001 in combined sexes to 1.3889 in males while the intercept (a) varied between 0.4754 and 0.8416. The value for 'b' and 'a' in Carapace Weight -Total Weight Relationship of *P. notialis* was highest in females and

males, respectively. In the Carapace Length-Total Weight Relationship, the males' *P. notialis* showed the highest regression constant (a) and regression coefficient (b) of 1.2345 and 0.8059, respectively. The 'b' values were calculated to find out whether the *P. notialis* was growing allometrically or isometrically and the values of the regression coefficient (b) and the slopes (a) for males, females and combined sexes were lower than 3.0, thus, reflecting a negative allometric growth for *P. notialis*. The regression lines derived from the data for the *P. notialis* showed a linear relationship between the two variables (length and weight).

Length-weight regressions have been used frequently to estimate weight from length because direct weight measurements can be time-consuming in the field (Chu et al., 1995; Sinovcic et al., 2004). The results obtained using a logarithmic transformation and the values of regression constant 'a', regression coefficient 'b' and ranges 'r' of length-weight relationship of *Penaeus notialis* showed a negative allometric growth and these are not in agreement with the results of Yakubu and Ansa (2007) in as they reported that both *Penaeus notialis* and *Penaeus monodon* showed positive allometric pattern of growth in Buguma Creek. This variation in the values of 'a', 'b' and 'r' could be attributed to the fact that length - weight relationship of a species varies according to locality and season (Medina-Reyha, 2001; Prasad, 2001).

The values obtained for the condition factor (K) of the 600 *P. notialis* (413 males and 187 females) from Lagos Lagoon in relation to sizes are shown in Table 4. The results showed that there were differences in the condition factors for males and females. The lowest K values (0.70) for the female species was found in size group 7.5-8.4 while the highest was obtained in size group 6.5-7.4. The male species had K values ranging between 0.18 and 80.29. There was variation in condition values for the combined sexes as the size group 1.0 - 1.4 had the highest K-value and size group 6.5 - 7.4 had the lowest K-value. The mean condition factor obtained from this study showed significant variations between sexes, thus, indicating sex dependent.

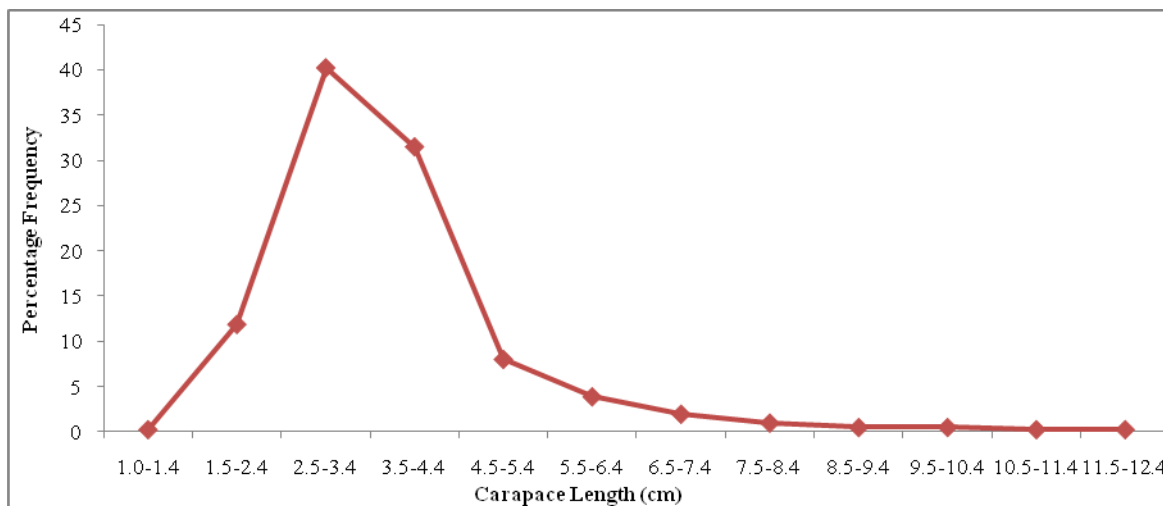


Figure 2. Carapace Length Frequency Distribution of *P. notialis* (Males)

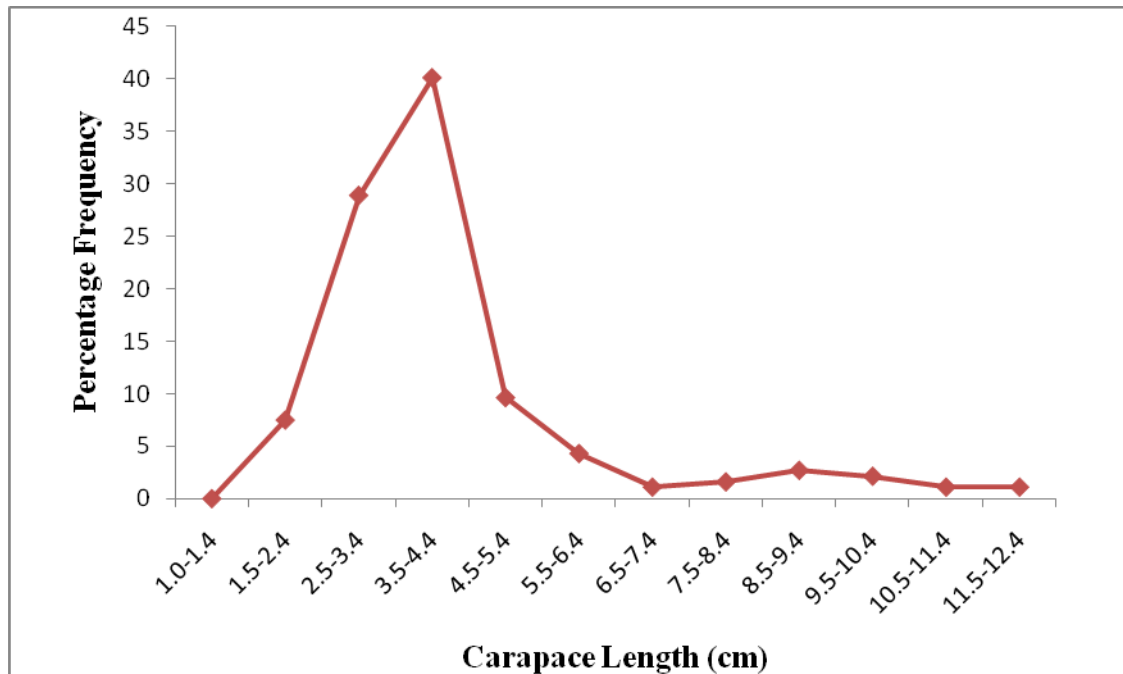


Figure 3. Carapace Length Frequency Distribution of *P. notialis* (Females)

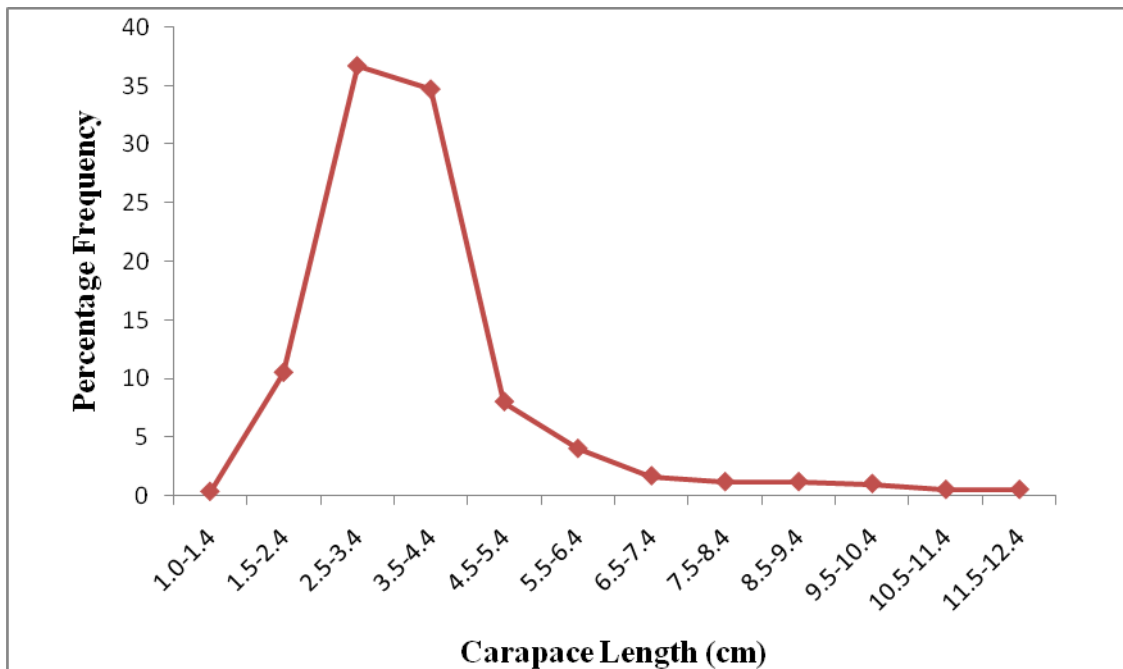


Figure 4. Carapace Length Frequency Distribution of *P. notialis* (Combined Sexes)

Table 1. The total number of samples (n), Regression constant (a), Regression coefficient (b) and Ranges (r) of Carapace Length-Total Length Relationship of *P. notialis*

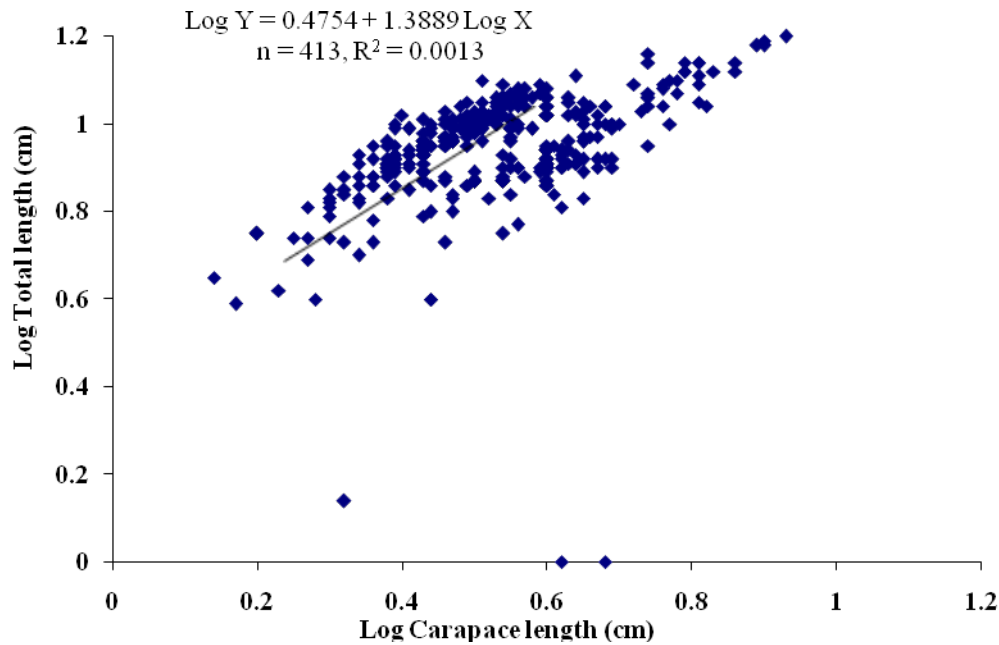
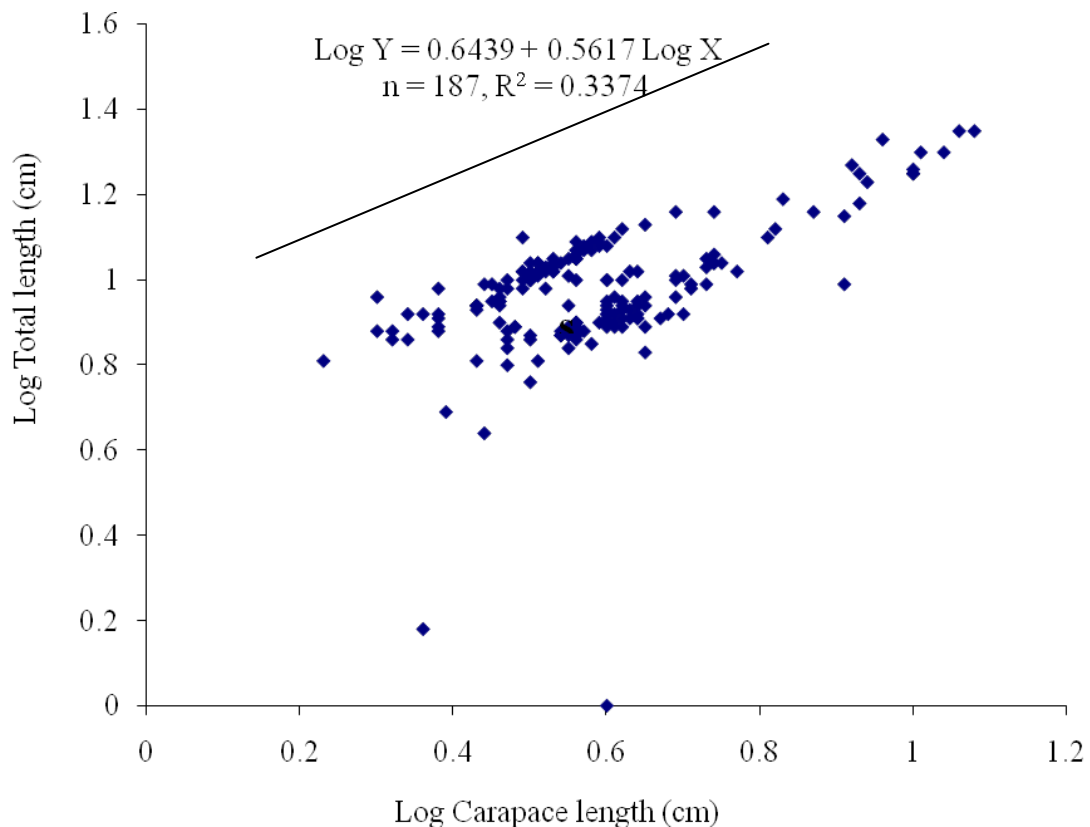
Sex	Year	n	a	b	r	r ²	W= aL ^b
Male	2009	413	0.4754	1.3889	0.0360	0.0013	0.4754L ^{1.3889}
Female	2009	187	0.6439	0.5617	0.5808	0.3374	0.6439L ^{0.5617}
Both Sexes	2009	600	0.8416	0.0001	0.0387	0.0015	0.8416L ^{0.0001}

Table 2. The total number of samples (n), Regression constant (a), Regression coefficient (b) and Ranges (r) of Carapace Weight -Total Weight Relationship of *P. notialis*

Sex	Year	n	a	b	r	r ²	W= aL ^b
Male	2009	413	0.5388	0.6199	0.5495	0.3020	0.5388L ^{0.6199}
Female	2009	187	0.3974	0.8171	0.6275	0.3938	0.3974L ^{0.8171}
Both Sexes	2009	600	0.0299	0.4919	0.5800	0.3365	0.0299L ^{0.4919}

Table 3. The total number of samples (n), Regression constant (a), Regression coefficient (b) and Ranges (r) of Carapace Length-Total Weight Relationship of *P. notialis*

Sex	Year	n	a	b	r	r ²	W= aL ^b
Male	2009	413	1.2345	0.8059	0.3535	0.1250	1.2345L ^{0.8059}
Female	2009	187	1.1063	0.6877	0.307	0.1201	1.1063L ^{0.6877}
Both Sexes	2009	600	0.4243	0.0121	0.354	0.4045	0.4243L ^{0.0121}

**Figure 5.** Log Carapace Length - Log Total Length of *P. notialis* (males) off Lagos Lagoon from January - June, 2009**Figure 6.** Log Carapace Length - Log Total Length of *P. notialis* (females) off Lagos Lagoon from January - June, 2009

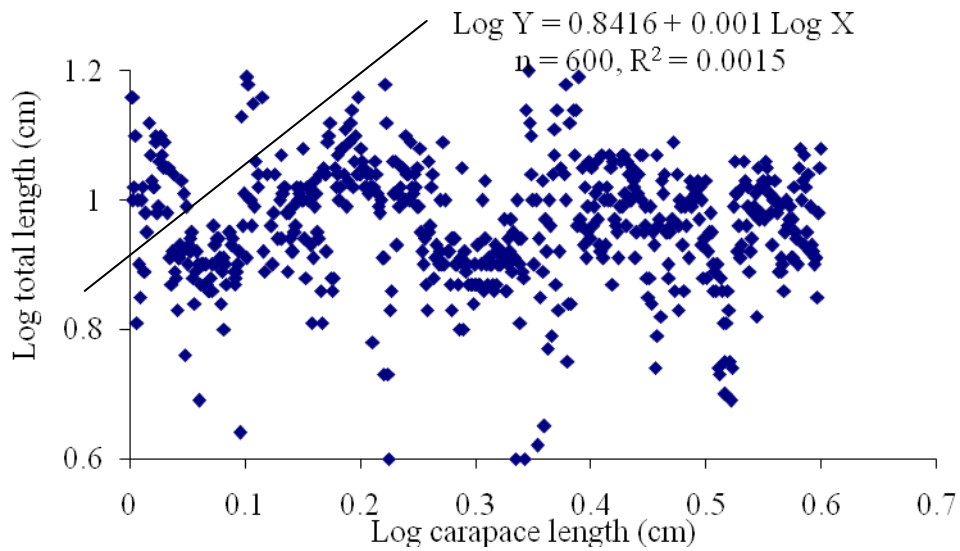


Figure 7. Log Carapace Length - Log Total Length relationship of *P. notialis* (combined sexes) off Lagos Lagoon from January - June, 2009

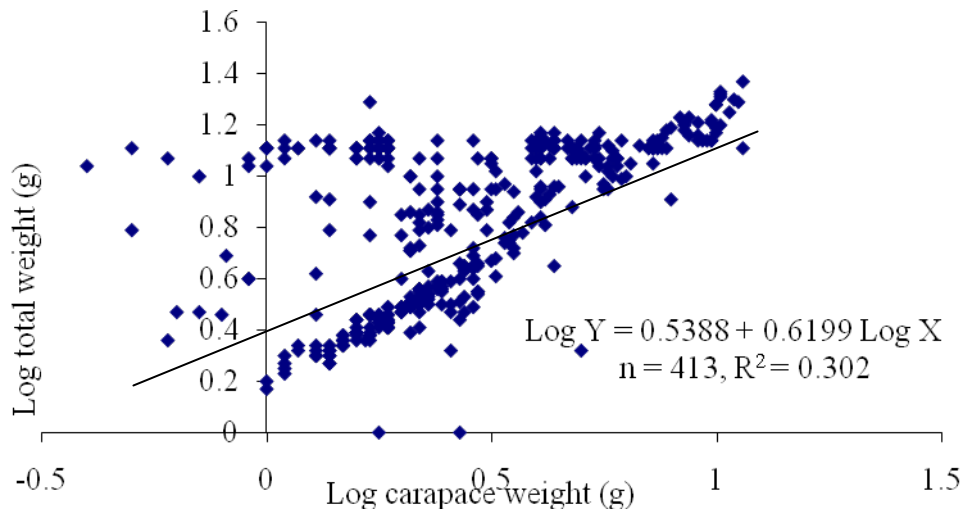


Figure 8. Log Carapace Weight - Log Total Weight of *P. notialis* (Males) off Lagos Lagoon from January - June, 2009.

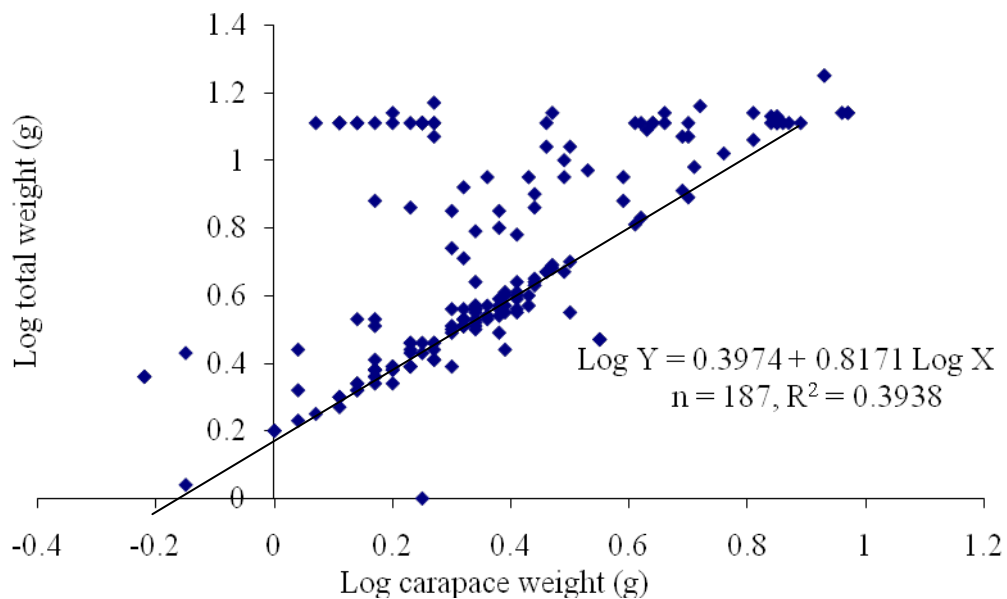


Figure 9. Log Carapace Weight - Log Total Weight of *P. notialis* (Females) off Lagos Lagoon from January - June, 2009

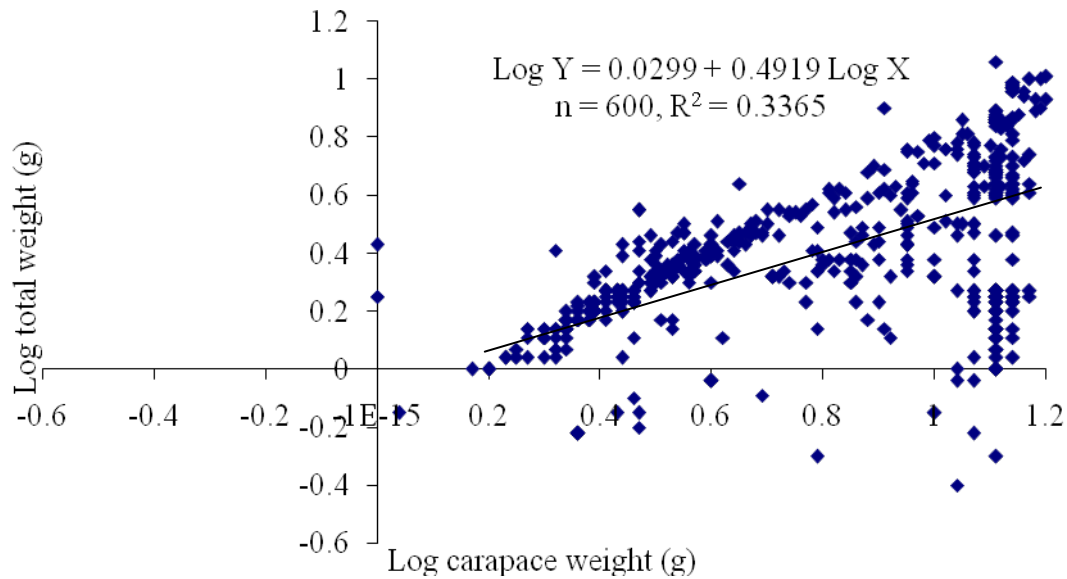


Figure 10. Log Carapace Weight - Log Total Weight relationship of *P. notialis* (Combined sexes) off Lagos Lagoon from January - June, 2009

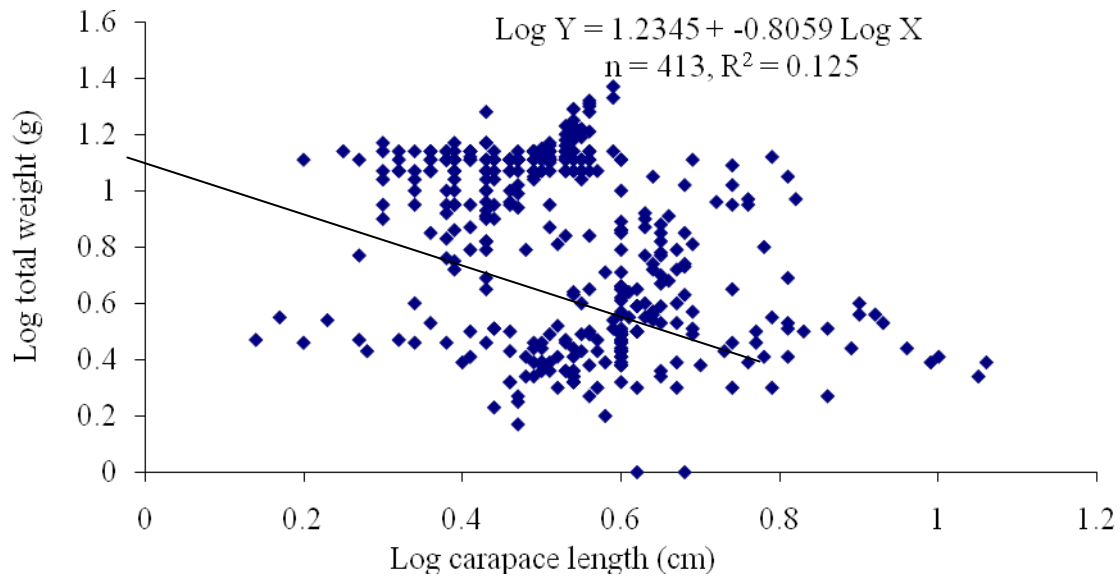


Figure 11. Log Carapace Length - Log Total Weight of *P. notialis* (Males) off Lagos Lagoon from January - June, 2009

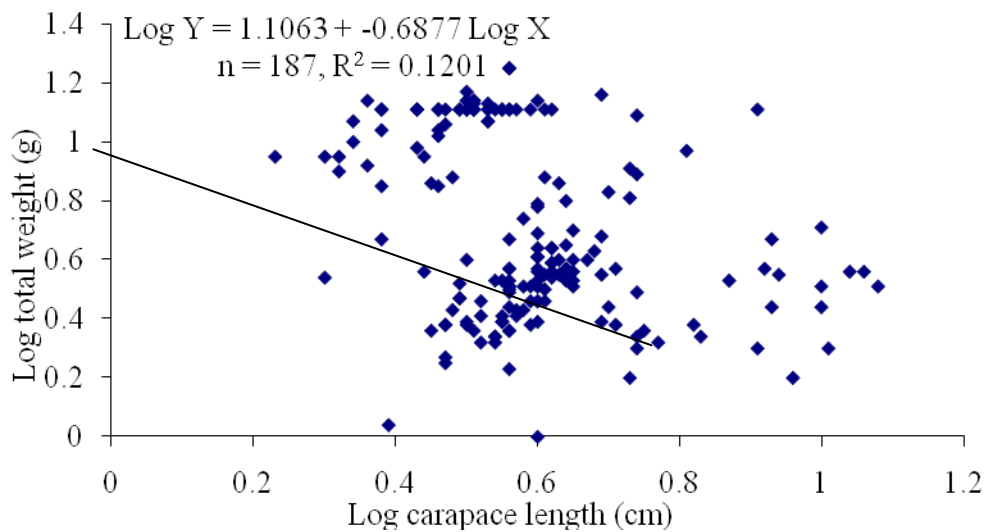


Figure 12. Log Carapace Length - Log Total Weight of *P. notialis* (Females) off Lagos Lagoon from January - June, 2009.

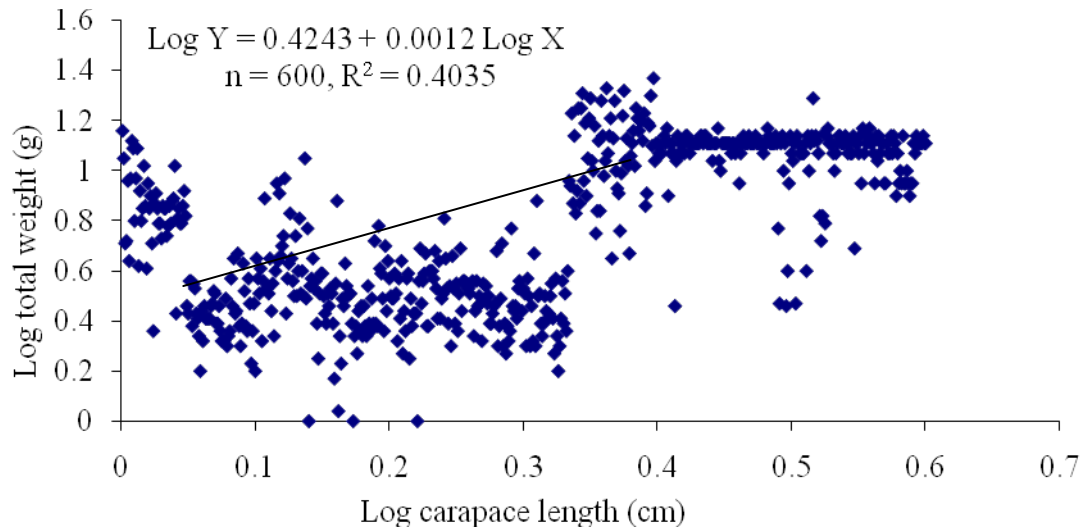


Figure13. Log Carapace Length - Log Total Weight of *P. notialis* (Combined sexes) off Lagos Lagoon from January - June, 2009

Table 4. Condition factor (K) for *P. notialis* off Lagos Lagoon from January – June, 2009

Size Group (cm)	Male				Female				Both Sexes (Combined)			
	N	CL	CW	K	N	CL	CW	K	N	CL	CW	K
1.0 - 1.4	1	1.4	2.2	80.29	0	0	0	0	1	1.4	2.2	80.29
1.5 - 2.4	49	2.2	2.8	26.29	14	2	3.2	4.0	63	2.1	3	32.40
2.5 - 3.4	166	3	3.6	13.33	54	3.1	3.3	1.07	220	3.1	3.5	11.75
3.5 - 4.4	130	3.9	3.6	6.07	75	3.9	2.5	4.21	208	3.9	3.1	5.23
4.5 - 5.4	33	4.7	2.6	2.50	18	4.9	2.8	2.38	48	4.4	2.7	3.17
5.5 - 6.4	16	5.8	2.8	1.44	8	5.7	2.6	1.40	24	5.8	2.7	1.38
6.5 - 7.4	8	6.7	3.2	1.06	2	6.7	1.6	5.32	10	6.7	2.4	0.80
7.5 - 8.4	4	8.1	2.1	3.95	3	8	3.6	0.70	7	8.1	2.9	1.55
8.5 - 9.4	2	9	2.8	3.84	5	8.7	2.3	3.49	7	8.9	2.6	2.37
9.5 - 10.4	2	10	1.8	0.18	4	10.1	1.9	1.84	6	10.1	1.9	1.18
10.5 - 11.4	1	11.3	1.5	4.42	2	10.7	1.7	1.39	3	11	1.6	2.12
11.5 - 12.4	1	11.5	2.1	1.38	2	11.8	2.2	1.34	3	11.7	2.2	1.14
Total	413				187				600			

Keys: N: Number of Occurrence; CL: Carapace length (cm); CW: Carapace weight (g); K: Condition Factor

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