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A Comparative Analysis of Growth Performance in Aquaculture of Tilapia Hybrids and Their Parent Species

J. MOREAU¹ and D. PAULY²

¹*Tropical Fisheries Research unit
E.N.S.A.T. I.N.P. Toulouse
P.O.Box 107 Auzeville Tolosane
31 326 CASTANET TOLOSAN FRANCE*

²*Fisheries Center
University of British Columbia
VANCOUVER BC Canada.*

Abstract

Growth parameters of hybrid tilapias (Cichlids) involving *Oreochromis niloticus*, *O. mossambicus*, *O. Hornorum*, and *O. aureus* as parent species were compiled from existing literature and their growth performances were compared with that of the parent species.

Evidence of positive heterosis for growth in the F1 hybrids of these four species emerged. This trend was even clearer when parent species and hybrids were grown under the same culture system.

Introduction

There are several reasons why *Tilapia* hybrids have been produced in the past, some of which are the following:

1) To obtain an all male progenies which eliminates reproduction in culture ponds (Chen and Prowse 1964, Pullin 1988). This leads to better growing individual because male *Tilapines* grow better than females (Pullin and Mac Connell 1982, Trewavas 1983).

2) To combine the genetic properties of parent species. An example is the fast growth of *O. niloticus* and the cold tolerance of *O. aureus* in Israel (see Lee 1979 and contributions in Pullin 1988 and Pullin et al 1988).

These advantages may be more important to the aquaculture industry than to growth performance alone and one should not expect that the hybrids reported in the literature necessarily grow better than their parent species. A few experiments only reported in the literature explicitly compare the growth of parent species with those of the hybrids such as: Avault and Shell (1968), Hickling (1959), Pruginin (1968), Chotiyarnwong (1971), Dunseth (1977), Alvarenga and Green (1986), McAndrew and Majumdar (1989).

Therefore, a compilation of growth parameters of *Tilapia* hybrids in aquaculture will be presented in this paper in the manner of Moreau et al (1986) and Pauly et al (1988). An attempt will be made to compare indices of growth performance of hybrids and their parent species and to interpret the resulting patterns.

Materials and Methods

All data used here are taken from published contributions (Tables 1 and 2). Growth was modelled using the von Bertalanffy Growth Function which has for length the form:

$$L_t = L_{\infty} (1 - \exp(-K(t-t_0))) \quad (1)$$

where L_t is the length at age t

L_{∞} is the asymptotic length i.e. the mean length the fish would reach if they were to grow indefinitely according to the model

K is a growth parameter with dimension 1/time and which expresses the rate at which L_{∞} is approached and

t_0 is the abscisse of the intersection of the curve with the time axis (the theoretical «age» for which $L_t = 0$) according to the model.

Table 1. Growth parameters and growth performance indices of 75 «stocks» of tilapia hybrids in aquaculture.

| Hybrid Location (% male) | W_{∞} (live weight, g) | L_{∞} (cm) | K (year ⁻¹) | \emptyset' | Reference |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>O. aureus</i> x <i>O. niloticus</i> Taiwan (54) | 304.1 | 19.8 | 7.127 | 3.45 | Sing and Ting 1977 |
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> x <i>O.</i> <i>hornorum</i> Auburn USA (100) | 164.0 | 16.7 | 6.247 | 3.24 | Suffren et al. (1978) |
| | 83.3 | 13.3 | 10.153 | 3.26 | Suffren et al. (1978) |
| | 107.0 | 14.3 | 4.726 | 2.98 | Suffren et al. (1978) |
| | 63.0 | 11.9 | 7.910 | 3.05 | Suffren et al. (1978) |
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> x <i>O.</i> <i>hornorum</i> Tennessee USA (100) | 258.1 | 19.5 | 18.930 | 3.86 | Marshall and De Angelis (1981) |
| | 2417.6 | 39.2 | 1.670 | 3.42 | Marshall and De Angelis (1981) |
| | 308.3 | 20.6 | 5.044 | 3.33 | Marshall and De Angelis (1981) |
| | 819.9 | 28.6 | 1.077 | 2.95 | Marshall and De Angelis (1981) |
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> x <i>O.</i> <i>hornorum</i> Malaysia (100) | 944.0 | 30.0 | 2.592 | 3.37 | Chen and Prowse (1964) |
| | 567.7 | 25.3 | 2.074 | 3.12 | Chen and Prowse (1964) |
| | 212.2 | 18.2 | 5.151 | 3.23 | Chen and Prowse (1964) |
| | 311.9 | 20.7 | 3.402 | 3.16 | Chen and Prowse (1964) |
| | 199.9 | 17.9 | 4.314 | 3.14 | Chen and Prowse (1964) |

continued

Table 1. continued

| Hybrid Location (% male) | W_{∞} (live weight, g) | L_{∞} (cm) | K (year ⁻¹) | \emptyset' | Reference |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> x <i>O. niloticus</i> | 220.7 | 18.3 | 5.170 | 3.24 | Sin and Chiu (1983) |
| Hong Kong (15) | 433.7 | 22.9 | 1.864 | 2.99 | Sin and Chiu (1983) |
| | 462.0 | 23.2 | 2.847 | 3.19 | Sin and Chiu (1983) |
| | 1153.0 | 31.5 | 2.019 | 3.30 | Sin and Chiu (1983) |
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> x <i>O. aureus</i> Taiwan (90) | 358.6 | 20.9 | 6.957 | 3.48 | Sing and Ting (1977) |
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> x <i>O. niloticus</i> Indonesia (50) | 1868.8 | 36.9 | 1.585 | 3.34 | Costa-Pierce et al (1989) |
| | 3403.6 | 45.6 | 1.199 | 3.40 | Costa-Pierce et al (1989) |
| | 2510.8 | 41.1 | 1.434 | 3.39 | Costa-Pierce et al (1989) |
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> x <i>O. niloticus</i> Thailand (70) | 76.6 | 12.7 | 5.811 | 2.98 | Chotiyarnwong (1971) |
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> x <i>O. niloticus</i> Taiwan (15) | 156.0 | 16.3 | 4.803 | 3.11 | Kuo (pers. comm.) |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. aureus</i> Gan Shmuel, Israel (100) | 2123.0 | 37.6 | 1.701 | 3.38 | Rothbard et al (1988) |
| | 1560.0 | 33.9 | 1.693 | 3.29 | Rothbard et al (1988) |
| | 342.0 | 20.4 | 3.210 | 3.13 | Rothbard et al (1988) |
| | 1235.0 | 31.4 | 1.610 | 3.20 | Rothbard et al (1988) |
| | 383.0 | 21.2 | 3.117 | 3.15 | Rothbard et al (1988) |
| | 272.0 | 18.9 | 3.962 | 3.15 | Rothbard et al (1988) |
| | 224.0 | 17.8 | 4.547 | 3.16 | Rothbard et al (1988) |
| | 1232.1 | 31.9 | 1.018 | 3.02 | Aquaservice (1984) |
| | 323.0 | 20.1 | 3.853 | 3.19 | Rothbard et al (1988) |
| | 323.0 | 20.1 | 4.993 | 3.30 | Rothbard et al (1988) |
| | 627.9 | 25.5 | 1.075 | 2.84 | Aquaservice (1984) |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. aureus</i> Dor and Nir David Israel (100) | 502.0 | 23.2 | 4.014 | 3.34 | Hulata et al (1988) |
| | 1026.0 | 29.5 | 2.161 | 3.27 | Hulata et al (1988) |
| | 3945.0 | 46.2 | 1.243 | 3.42 | Hulata et al (1988) |
| | 9780.0 | 62.5 | 0.596 | 3.36 | Hulata et al (1988) |
| | 2210.0 | 38.4 | 1.062 | 3.19 | Hulata et al (1988) |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. aureus</i> Arava, Israel (100) | 1324.2 | 32.6 | 1.095 | 3.07 | Pruginin et al (1988) |
| | 280.0 | 19.5 | 2.345 | 2.95 | Pruginin et al (1988) |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. aureus</i> Bet Dagan, Israel (100) | 243.9 | 18.6 | 9.298 | 3.50 | Barash and Schroeder (1984) |
| | 206.9 | 17.4 | 9.182 | 3.45 | Barash and Schroeder (1984) |
| | 1416.8 | 33.1 | 1.844 | 3.31 | Barash and Schroeder (1984) |
| | 436.1 | 22.4 | 4.547 | 3.36 | Barash and Schroeder (1984) |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. aureus</i> Taiwan (100) | 1579.9 | 34.9 | 1.014 | 3.08 | Kuo and Tian (1984) |
| | 457.3 | 23.1 | 2.177 | 3.06 | Kuo and Tian (1984) |
| | 874.2 | 28.4 | 0.933 | 2.88 | Sing and Ting (1977) |

continued

Table 1. continued

| Hybrid Location (% male) | W_x (live weight, g) | L_x (cm) | K (year ⁻¹) | \emptyset' | Reference |
|--|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. hornorum</i> at Dor, Israel | 602.0 | 24.6 | 2.850 | 3.24 | Hulata et al (1988) |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. hornorum</i> Brazil (100) | - | 27.3 | 1.724 | 3.11 | Verani et al (1983) |
| | - | 29.4 | 1.835 | 3.20 | Verani et al (1983) |
| | - | 31.1 | 1.447 | 3.15 | Verani et al (1983) |
| | 1401.1 | 33.4 | 1.081 | 3.08 | Lovshin et al (1977) |
| | 709.8 | 28.5 | 2.020 | 3.15 | Lovshin et al (1977) |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. hornorum</i> Auburn, USA (100) | 430.0 | 22.6 | 6.735 | 3.54 | Collis and Smitherman (1978) |
| | 257.8 | 19.1 | 7.181 | 3.42 | Collis and Smitherman (1978) |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. hornorum</i> Puerto Rico (100) | 265.6 | 19.3 | 8.016 | 3.47 | Fram and Pagan-Font (1978) |
| | 341.5 | 21.10 | 6.617 | 3.46 | Fram and Pagan-Font (1978) |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. hornorum</i> Peru (100) | 308.2 | 20.4 | 3.899 | 3.21 | Alvarenga and Green (1986) |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O.</i> <i>mossambicus</i> Thailand (60) | 54.2 | 11.5 | 8.087 | 3.03 | Chotiyarnwong (1971) |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O.</i> <i>mossambicus</i> Taiwan (55) | 184.8 | 17.2 | 5.620 | 3.22 | Kuo, pers. comm; |
| Red tilipia [<i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. mossambicus</i>] Thailand (100) | 133.4 | 15.3 | 5.544 | 3.11 | Jarimopas (1986) |
| | 143.9 | 15.7 | 3.308 | 2.91 | Jarimopas (1986) |
| Red tilipia [<i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. mossambicus</i>] Thailand (60) | 34.8 | 9.9 | 8.966 | 2.92 | Jarimopas and Kumnane (1986) |
| | 36.1 | 10.0 | 8.353 | 2.91 | Jarimopas and Kumnane (1986) |
| | 33.3 | 9.8 | 6.872 | 2.80 | Jarimopas and Kumnane (1986) |
| | 1250.1 | 32.3 | 1.793 | 3.27 | Jarimopas and Kumnane (1986) |
| | 2605.2 | 41.3 | 1.158 | 3.29 | Jarimopas and Kumnane (1986) |
| | 644.0 | 25.9 | 1.780 | 3.07 | Jarimopas and Kumnane (1986) |
| | | | | | |
| Red tilipia [<i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. mossambicus</i>] Taiwan (90) | 282.7 | 19.6 | 3.310 | 3.11 | Liao and Chang (1983) |
| | 613.2 | 25.5 | 2.192 | 3.15 | Liao and Chang (1983) |
| | 1259.9 | 32.4 | 1.293 | 3.13 | Liao and Chang (1983) |
| | 225.4 | 18.3 | 6.686 | 3.35 | Liao and Chang (1983) |
| | 235.0 | 18.5 | 4.798 | 3.22 | Liao and Chang (1983) |

Table 2. Growth parameters of various species of tilapia in aquaculture not previously documented in Pauly et al (1988).

| Species | Sex | M_x (g) | L_x (cm) | K (y^{-1}) | ϕ' | Reference |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|----------------|---------|------------------------------|
| <i>Oreochromis aureus</i> | *M | 733.0 | 26.8 | 0.949 | 2.83 | Hopkins et al (1988) |
| | *M | 1775.0 | 36.0 | 0.949 | 3.09 | Hopkins et al (1988) |
| | *M | 488.3 | 23.2 | 2.239 | 3.08 | Sing and Ting (1977) |
| | *M | 447.4 | 22.5 | 3.628 | 3.27 | Hargreaves et al (1988) |
| | *M | 413.0 | 22.0 | 3.991 | 3.28 | Hargreaves et al (1988) |
| | *M | 592.5 | 24.8 | 2.860 | 3.24 | Hargreaves et al (1988) |
| | *M | 605.2 | 24.9 | 2.405 | 3.17 | Hargreaves et al (1988) |
| | *M | 211.9 | 17.7 | 2.460 | 2.89 | Kuo and Tian (1984) |
| | M+F | 288.6 | 19.7 | 1.826 | 2.85 | Kuo and Tian (1985) |
| | M+F | 658.8 | 25.9 | 1.081 | 2.86 | Kuo and Tian (1986) |
| | M+F | 315.3 | 20.2 | 1.723 | 2.84 | Kuo and Tian (1987) |
| | M+F | 6862.3 | 56.5 | 0.325 | 3.02 | Kuo and Tian (1988) |
| | M+F | 173.0 | 16.6 | 2.114 | 2.76 | Kuo and Tian (1989) |
| | <i>Oreochromis hornorum</i> | *M | 216.7 | 23.1 | 4.101 | 3.34 |
| *M | | 2305.8 | 40.4 | 0.565 | 2.96 | Kuo and Tian (1984) |
| M+F | | 240.0 | 19.0 | 1.936 | 2.85 | Kuo and Tian (1985) |
| M+F | | 539.7 | 24.9 | 1.089 | 2.84 | Kuo and Tian (1986) |
| M+F | | 423.2 | 22.9 | 1.764 | 2.97 | Kuo and Tian (1987) |
| M+F | | 1278.2 | 33.2 | 0.821 | 2.96 | Kuo and Tian (1988) |
| M+F | | 139.7 | 15.9 | 2.344 | 2.77 | Kuo and Tian (1989) |
| <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> | M+F | 425.5 | 22.4 | 1.946 | 2.99 | Kuo and Tian (1985) |
| | M+F | 2782.8 | 41.8 | 0.637 | 3.05 | Kuo and Tian (1988) |
| | M+F | 274.9 | 19.3 | 2.268 | 2.93 | Kuo and Tian (1989) |
| | M+F | 396.7 | 21.9 | 2.718 | 3.11 | Kuo (pers. comm.) |
| | *M | 233.0 | 18.3 | 4.160 | 3.15 | Boidy (1984) |
| | *M | 212.4 | 17.7 | 3.573 | 3.05 | Boidy (1984) |
| | *M | 174.2 | 16.6 | 3.813 | 3.02 | Boidy (1984) |
| | *M | 232.9 | 18.3 | 3.508 | 3.07 | Mair et al (1990) |
| | *M | 402.8 | 21.8 | 3.809 | 3.26 | Edwards et al (1990) |
| | *M | 304.2 | 19.8 | 4.138 | 3.21 | Edwards et al (1990) |
| | *M | 241.1 | 18.3 | 3.418 | 3.06 | Edwards et al (1990) |
| | *M | 977.2 | 29.5 | 2.883 | 3.40 | Lin (1990) |
| | *M | 552.4 | 24.3 | 4.566 | 3.43 | Lin (1990) |
| | *M | 365.3 | 21.4 | 3.826 | 3.24 | Alvarenga and Green (1986) |
| | *M | 767.6 | 27.2 | 1.399 | 3.02 | Kuo and Tian (1984) |
| | <i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i> | *M | 123.9 | 15.5 | 2.655 | 2.81 |
| *M | | 93.3 | 14.1 | 3.474 | 2.84 | Pruginin and Arad (1977) |
| *M | | 231.5 | 18.9 | 4.660 | 3.22 | Guerrero and Guerrero (1990) |
| *M | | 170.1 | 17.1 | 5.718 | 3.22 | Guerrero and Guerrero (1990) |
| *M | | 92.2 | 13.9 | 14.473 | 3.45 | I.F.P.P. (1976) |
| *M | | 94.6 | 14.1 | 15.166 | 3.48 | I.F.P.P. (1976) |
| *M | | 74.5 | 13.0 | 15.518 | 3.42 | I.F.P.P. (1976) |
| *M | | 61.6 | 12.2 | 25.580 | 3.58 | I.F.P.P. (1976) |
| *M | | 109.1 | 16.8 | 21.09 | 3.66 | I.F.P.P. (1976) |
| *M | | 64.1 | 12.3 | 16.621 | 3.40 | I.F.P.P. (1975) |
| *M | | 203.8 | 18.2 | 18.160 | 3.19 | I.F.P.P. (1975) |
| *M | | 144.1 | 16.2 | 7.787 | 3.31 | I.F.P.P. (1975) |
| *M | | 119.1 | 15.2 | 15.269 | 3.55 | I.F.P.P. (1975) |
| *M | | 82.9 | 13.5 | 17.141 | 3.49 | I.F.P.P. (1975) |
| *M | | 114.3 | 15.0 | 13.563 | 3.48 | I.F.P.P. (1975) |
| *M | | 100.4 | 14.3 | 20.029 | 3.61 | I.F.P.P. (1975) |

asterisk (*) indicates that parameters were used for Table 3.

The VBGF can also be expressed for growth in weight as:

$$W_t = W_\infty (1 - \exp(-K(t-t_0)))^b \quad (2)$$

where W_∞ is the weight corresponding to L_∞

K and t_0 are as in (1) and b is the exponent (generally near or equal to 3) of the length-weight relationship of the form

$$W = a L^b \quad (3)$$

The growth parameters (K , L_∞ and/or W_∞) were all estimated from size-at-age data in the literature cited. All estimates refer to aquaculture growth experiments lasting at least three months and conducted with fish stocked at weight usually not less than 10 g. Most estimates were obtained using the ETAL computer program (Gaschütz et al 1980) which allows consideration of seasonal growth oscillation when these were manifested in the data.

In cases where the growth curve in weight did not exhibit the typical S shape of a VBGF for weight growth (resulting in unrealistic values of W_∞ when fitted to the data) an alternative to the VBGF was used to describe growth i.e. logistic curve of the form

$$W_t = W_\infty / (1 + \exp(-G(t-t_i))) \quad (4)$$

where G is a constant of dimension $1/\text{time}$
 t_i is the age of fish for which $W_t = W_\infty/2$ (Moreau 1987).

This equation was fitted to data using the Microsimplex routine of Schnute (1983). Equation (4) implies that growth rate dW/dt is maximum when $W_t = W_\infty/2$ i.e. at t_i . Maximum growth rate can thus be computed from

$$(dw/dt)_{\max} = W_\infty * G/4 \quad (5)$$

In the VBGF, on the other hand (see Pauly 1979 in Moreau et al 1986), maximum growth rate is defined by

$$(dw/dt) = (4/9) * K * W_\infty \quad (6)$$

Hence, if W_∞ and G have been estimated using equation (4), dw/dt max can be estimated using equation (5) equated to equation (6) and the latter solved for K ;

All weights are in g live weight, all lengths are standard lengths in cm and all values of K are in year⁻¹.

Comparisons of growth performance were done following Moreau et al (1986) and Pauly et al (1988) on the basis of the index

$$O' = \log K + 2^* \log L_{\infty}$$

(7)

as defined by Pauly and Munro (1984). The values of O' thus obtained were then plotted in two graphs comparing the growth of hybrids and their parent species. These comparisons all refer to all male hybrids except in the case of *O. mossambicus* * *O. niloticus* where both sexes are involved.

The arithmetic mean and its standard error have been computed for the index O' for those Tilapia hybrids in which three or more data sets are available. Similar information is provided for the four most important parental species: *O. aureus*, *O. niloticus*, *O. mossambicus* and *O. hornorum*.

Results

A compilation of the growth parameters and O' values are shown in Tables 1 and 2 while mean O' values and associated statistics of well documented hybrids and parent species are presented in Table 3. A summary of comparisons between hybrids and parent species for all cases in Tables 1 and 2, i.e. mainly cases in which hybrids and parent species have been grown in various systems is presented in Figure 1. In three groups of hybrids out of four, the growth performance of hybrids was, on an average, intermediate to that of the parent species. Only one case, (*O. mossambicus* * *O. niloticus*),

Table 3. Growth performance index and relative statistics for some tilapia hybrids and their parental species (n=number of studies : i;e; Sets of K and L_{∞} values.

| Hybrid ^a or species; Location (% males) | n | O' min | O' mean | O' max | s.e | c.v |
|--|----|-------------|--------------|-------------|------|-----|
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> x <i>O. hornorum</i> ^b (100) | 13 | 2.95 | 3.24 | 3.86 | 0.06 | 7.0 |
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> x <i>O. niloticus</i> ^b (33) | 9 | 2.98 | 3.22 | 3.39 | 0.05 | 4.7 |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. aureus</i> ^b (100) | 25 | 2.84 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 0.03 | 5.3 |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. hornorum</i> ^b (100) | 11 | 3.08 | 3.28 | 3.54 | 0.05 | 4.8 |
| Red tilapia <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. mossambicus</i> Thailand (80) | 8 | 2.8 | 3.04 | 3.29 | 0.06 | 5.5 |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> | | | | | | |
| (50) ^c | 43 | 2.64 | 3.17 | 3.59 | 0.03 | 6.5 |
| (100) ^{c,d} | 27 | 2.95 | 3.3 | 3.72 | 0.04 | 6.4 |
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> | | | | | | |
| (50) ^c | 17 | 2.63 | 3.14 | 3.5 | 0.06 | 7.3 |
| (100) ^{c,d} | 16 | 2.81 | 3.36 | 3.61 | 0.06 | 7.2 |
| <i>O. aureus</i> | | | | | | |
| (50) ^c | 16 | 2.83 | 3.11 | 3.33 | 0.04 | 4.7 |
| (100) ^{c,d} | 11 | 2.83 | 3.18 | 3.42 | 0.05 | 5.7 |
| <i>O. hornorum</i> | | | | | | |
| (50) ^c | 5 | 2.77 | 2.88 | 2.97 | 0.03 | 2.6 |
| (100) ^{c,d} | 2 | 2.96 | 3.15 | 3.34 | 0.13 | 6.0 |

^amaternal x paternal species

^bfrom Table 1

^cfrom Pauly et al (1988)

^dfrom Table 2

Table 4. Growth performance index of tilapia hybrids and parent species cultivated under the same culture system.

| Location: hybrids ^a or parent sp. (% males) | n | Ø' min | Ø' mean | Ø' max |
|---|----|--------|---------|--------|
| Taiwan <i>O. niloticus</i> ^b (50) | 4 | 2.93 | 3.02 | 3.11 |
| <i>O. aureus</i> ^b (50) | 5 | 2.76 | 2.87 | 3.02 |
| <i>O. hornorum</i> ^b (50) | 55 | 2.77 | 2.88 | 2.97 |
| <i>O. hornorum</i> x <i>O. aureus</i> ^c (67) | 1 | - | 3.01 | - |
| <i>O. aureus</i> x <i>O. niloticus</i> ^c (54) | 1 | - | 3.45 | - |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> (100) ^b | 1 | - | 3.02 | - |
| <i>O. aureus</i> (100) ^b | 1 | - | 2.89 | - |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. aureus</i> (100) ^c | 2 | 3.06 | 3.07 | 3.08 |
| Thailand | | | | |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> ^d (50) | 2 | 2.92 | 2.96 | 3.00 |
| <i>O. mossambicus</i> ^d (50) | 2 | 2.92 | 2.95 | 2.97 |
| <i>O. niloticus</i> x <i>O. mossambicus</i> ^c (65) | 2 | 2.98 | 3.01 | 3.03 |

^amaternal x paternal species

^bfrom Table 2

^cfrom Table 1

^dPauly et al. (1988), based on Chotiyarnwong (1971)

suggested that the tilapia hybrids may have a better growth performance than the parent species. However, production systems in which people grow hybrids may have been more sophisticated than the production systems in which the parent species were raised. In order to account for this treatment effect we have extracted from Tables 1 and 2 the growth parameters for hybrids and parent species raised in the same culture system; this led to Table 4 and Figure 2. All groups of hybrids for which appropriate data are available have growth performance indices higher than their parent species.

Although the scantiness of the data at hand does not warrant strong statements, this result suggests evidence of positive heterosis for growth in F1 hybrids.

Discussion and Conclusion

Direct comparisons of growth performance between hybrids and parental species in ponds showed better growth of the hybrids even if it was not regarded as a «significant difference». For instance, Smitherman et al (1984, quoted by McAndrew and Majundar 1989) stated that hybrids *O. niloticus* * *O. hornorum* did not grow better than the all male *O. niloticus* whereas *O. niloticus* * *O. aureus* exhibited better growth. Lovshin et al (1977) showed that all males *O. niloticus* * *O. Hornorum* grew 18% higher than male *O. niloticus*. A similar result was obtained by Dunseth (1977) in a different culture system.

The present paper provides similar information in a culture system basis but does not allow more general statements. This might come from the limits of the suitability of the index of growth performance Ø' for the present purposes. It might have been intended to be used in conditions which are beyond its potential sensitivity for growth performance analysis. We have elaborated

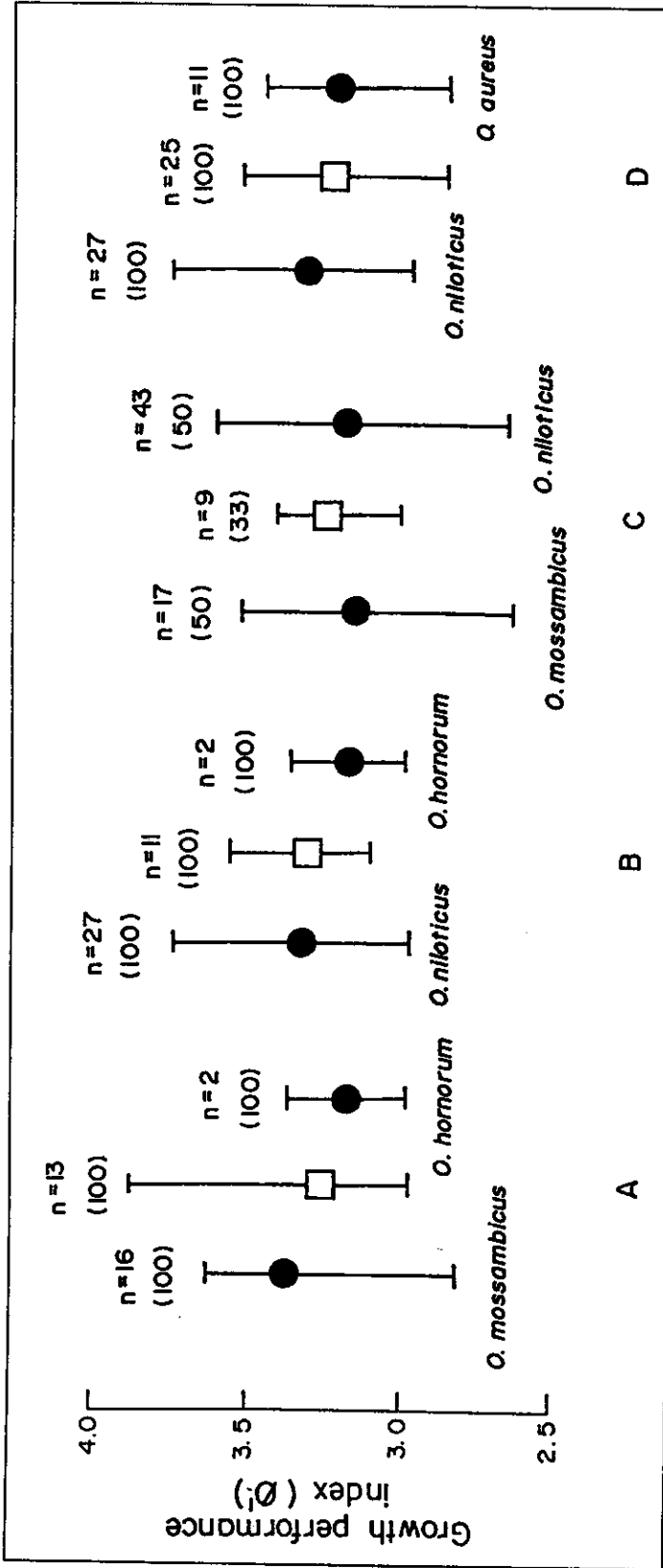


Figure 1: Mean growth performance index and range of Tilapia hybrids (open squares) and their parent species (left: maternal species, right: paternal species). Hybrid data from table 1; data on parent species from Pauly et al (1988) and table 2; n refers to the number of cases (i.e. sets of L_x and K values) and value in brackets to mean percentage of males. Note that \bar{O} values stem from various culture systems.

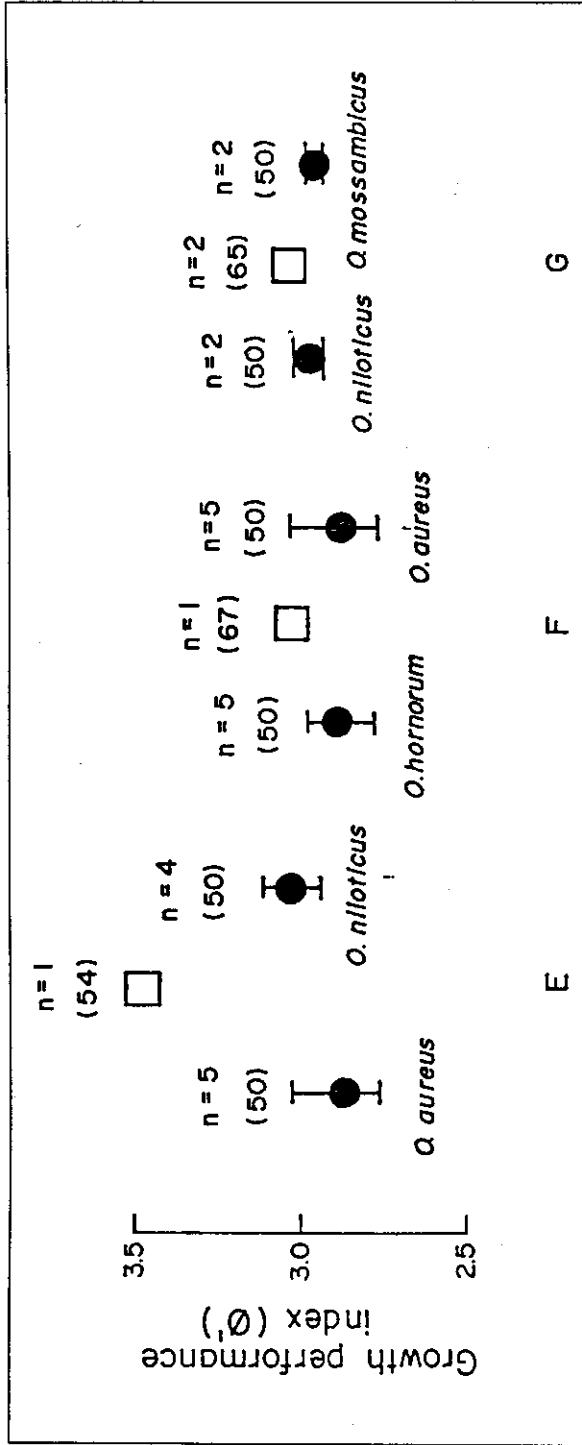


Figure 2: Mean growth performance index and range of Tilapia hybrids (open squares) and their parent species (left:maternal species; right: paternal species), kept in the same culture system (data from table 4).

- E: Kuo and Tian (1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989)
- F: Kuo and Tian (1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989)
- G: Chotiarnwong (1971)
- H: Kuo and Tian (1984)

another approach to characterize *Tilapia* populations based on the concept of «growth space» (Pauly et al 1996) which will be used for future contributions.

Tilapia hybrids have sometimes been produced not only for growth performance but also to obtain or maintain certain phenotype features not appearing in mother species e.g. the "red coloration" of "red tilapia" not occurring in any of the parent species (Galman 1987). This paper does not cover red tilapias whose genetic status is unknown. In addition, there are now non-hybrid red tilapias. The growth performance and systematic status of these fishes should be compared to one of the other main cultivated Tilapine fish, including non-red hybrids which were considered here, using also the concept of growth space (Pauly et al 1996) already mentioned.

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