

APPENDIX – Methods to quantify fish diet

1. Introduction

This Supplementary Appendix focuses on the nomenclature standardization of methods employed on studies of fish trophic ecology, showing equations, modification proposals and synonyms used in the scientific literature. Its organization follows the structure adopted in the main text.

2. Stomach evaluation

2.1. *Frequency of stomachs with food*

The *frequency of stomach with food* ($\%Sf_j$) expresses the percentage of stomachs with any food that belongs to a given fish species j (Sf_j) and the total number of stomachs analyzed for this species (S_j):

$$\%Sf_j = \frac{Sf_j}{S_j} \times 100$$

Eq1

The $\%Sf_j$ is also referred as *percentage* (Duncan, 1912) or *proportion* (Mironova, 1961; Pearson & Gage, 1984) regarding stomachs with food contents.

2.2. *Frequency of empty stomachs*

The *frequency of empty stomach* ($\%Se_j$) expresses the percentage between the number of empty stomachs that belongs to the species j (Se_j) and the total number of stomachs analyzed for this species (S_j):

$$\%Se_j = \frac{Se_j}{S_j} \times 100$$

Eq2

The $\%Se_j$ is also referred as *percentage* (Duncan, 1912) or *proportion* (Longley, 1917) regarding empty stomachs. Synonymies match such terms as *coefficient*, *emptiness*, *factor*, *fullness*, *index*, and *vacuity* (Hureau, 1970; Albertine-Berhaut, 1973; Duhamel & Hureau, 1985; Reyes-Marchant, Cravinho, & Lair, 1992; El-Ganainy, 2010).

2.3. Degree of stomach fullness

The *degree of stomach fullness* (DSF_i) categorizes each stomach i (or its content) from empty to full applying arbitrary categories (k) according to the degree of stomach distention (or the weight/volume of its content). These scales are extremely subjective, varying between two (Swynnerton & Worthington, 1940) and eight categories (Rao, 1964). Synonyms to DSF_i match terms such as *gut*, *percent*, *repletion* and *fullness* (Thomerson & Wooldridge, 1970; Hambrick & Hibbs, 1977; Barla, Vera, & O'Brien, 2003)

2.4. Stomach repletion degree

The *stomach repletion degree* (SRD_j) (Santos, 1978) calculates the weighted average among the different DSF_i values attained to the different specimens i belonging to a given species j . For this end, the SRD_j considers the DSF category (k_{DSF}), the total number of stomachs classified into this DSF category (S_k) and the total number of stomachs evaluated for the species (S_j):

$$SRD_j = \frac{[(k1_{DSF} \cdot S_{k1}) + (k2_{DSF} \cdot S_{k2}) + \dots + Kn_{DSF} \cdot S_{kn}]}{S_j}$$

Eq3

Thus, $K1_{DSF}$ represents the value assigned to the first fullness category, S_{k1} represents the number of stomachs classified into the first fullness category; $K2_{DSF}$ represents the value assigned to the second fullness category, S_{k2} represents the number of stomachs classified into the second fullness category; Kn_{DSF} represents the value assigned to the last fullness category, S_{kn} represents the number of stomachs that belongs to the last fullness category; and S_j represents the total number of stomachs evaluated for the species j .

The *SRD* was independently developed by Pelicice & Agostinho (2006) under the synonymy *mean stomach fullness*.

2.5. Gastro-somatic relationship

The *gastro-somatic relationship* (GSR_i) (Blegvad, 1917) represents a percentage (as proposed by Hureau, 1970) between the stomach weight (W_s) and the total body weight (W_B) of each specimen i :

$$GSR_i = \frac{W_{S_i}}{W_{B_i}} \cdot 100$$

Eq4

Several modification proposals were developed to estimate the GSR_i . The W_{S_i} also was calculated as either the weight of the stomach content (Hureau, 1970) or the eviscerated body weight (i.e., after removing digestive tract, liver and reproductive organs) (Buckley & Miller, 1994). Alternatively, the W_{B_i} was replaced by measurements in volume relating to either the

stomach or its content (Kimball & Helm, 1971). Other proposals replaced the W_{B_i} by the expected maximum stomach weight for a given body size ($W_{S_{exp i}}$). The $W_{S_{exp i}}$ is obtained from a regression between the maximum stomach weight observed in the species j (or the maximum stomach volume) and the fish body sizes (Wallace, 1976; Knight & Margraf, 1982; Herbold, 1986).

Synonymies include matches among terms such as *coefficient*, *gut*, *fullness*, *index*, *relative*, *repletion* and *stomach* (Hureau, 1970; Albertine-Berhaut, 1973; De Silva, 1973; Claridge & Gardner, 1977; Lobel & Ogden, 1981; Villiers, 1982; Waters *et al.*, 2004).

3. Single indices

3.1. Frequency of occurrence

The *frequency of occurrence* ($\%O_{fi}$) expresses a percentage between the total number of stomachs belonging to the species j in which the food category f occurred (Sf_{fi}) and the total number of stomachs with food assessed in that species (Sf_j):

$$\%O_{fi} = \left(\frac{Sf_{fi}}{Sf_j} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq5

Synonyms combine terms regarding to *occurrence* and *frequency* with *composition*, *index*, *method*, *number*, *percent*, *percentage*, *relative* and *total* (Oosten & Deason, 1938; Hynes, 1950; Luther, 1962; Prakash, 1962; Manooch III, 1977).

The replacement of the denominator Sf_j by the sum of the total number of occurrences ($\sum Sf_{fi}$) represents the *percentage of occurrence* ($\%PO_{fi}$) (Hynes, 1950; Natarajan & Jhingran, 1961; Harris, 1985; Rosecchi & Nouaze, 1987; King, 1988a). Differently from the

$\%O_{fi}$, the sum of every $\%PO_{fi}$ value for a given species results in 100%. Although this feature apparently facilitates comparisons with other single indices (Harris, 1985), it creates an artificial total number of stomachs, which are computed more than one time in the analysis. It inserts bias in the diet analysis and overestimate the occurrence of abundant food categories in detriment of those less abundant.

3.2. Numerical frequency

The *numerical frequency* ($\%N_{fi}$) represents a percentage between the amount (i.e. counting data) of prey items belonging to the food category f found in the stomach of a given specimen i (N_{fi}) and the total amount of prey items belonging to all food categories found into the stomach of this same specimen ($\sum N_{fi}$). This outcome is weighted by the total number of stomachs with food analyzed for the species j (Sf_j):

$$\%N_{fi} = \frac{1}{Sf_j} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{Sf} \left(\frac{N_{fi}}{\sum_{i=1}^f N_{fi}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq6

Synonyms combine terms relating to *number*, *numeric* and *numerical* with *abundance*, *composition*, *frequency*, *importance*, *index*, *mean*, *method*, *percent*, *percentage*, *prey*, *proportion*, *system* and *total* (Hynes, 1950; Thompson, 1959; Doble & Eggers, 1978; Delbeek & Williams, 1987; Cortés & Gruber, 1990; Somerton, 1991; Muñoz & Ojeda, 1998; Mannini et al., 1999; Chipps & Garvey, 2007; Pethybridge, Daley, & Nichols, 2011).

3.3. Gravimetric frequency

The *gravimetric frequency* ($\%W_{fi}$) represents a percentage between the weight of the food category f consumed by a given specimen i (W_{fi}) and the total weight of all food categories consumed by this same specimen ($\sum W_{fi}$). This outcome is weighted by the total number of analyzed stomachs with food of the species j (Sf_j):

$$\%W_{fi} = \frac{1}{Sf_j} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{Sf} \left(\frac{W_{fi}}{\sum_{i=1}^f W_{fi}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq7

Synonyms combine terms such as *weight* (dry or wet) and *mass* associated with *abundance*, *composition*, *contribution*, *frequency*, *importance*, *index*, *mean*, *method*, *percent*, *percentage*, *prey*, *proportion*, *relative* and *total* (Hynes, 1950; Doble & Eggers, 1978; Matallanas, 1982; Cortés & Gruber, 1990; Du Buit, 1991; Ojeda & Deaborn, 1991; Somerton, 1991; Muñoz & Ojeda, 1998; Mannini *et al.*, 1999; Santos & Borges, 2001; Chipps & Garvey, 2007; Pethybridge, Daley, & Nichols, 2011).

3.4. Volumetric frequency

The *volumetric frequency* ($\%V_{fi}$) represents a percentage between the volume of the food category f consumed by a given specimen i (V_{fi}) and the total volume of all food categories consumed by this same specimen ($\sum V_{fi}$). This outcome is weighted by the total number of stomachs with food analyzed for the species j (Sf_j):

$$\%V_{fj} = \frac{1}{Sf_j} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{Sf} \left(\frac{V_{fi}}{\sum_{i=1}^f V_{fi}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq8

Synonyms combine terms related to *volume* and *volumetric* with *abundance*, *analysis*, *composition*, *contribution*, *dominance*, *frequency*, *importance*, *index*, *mean*, *method*, *percent*, *percentage*, *proportion*, *relative*, *system* and *total* (Tester, 1932; Oosten & Deason, 1938; Hynes, 1950; Powles, 1958; Thompson, 1959; Prakash, 1962; Palmisano and Helm, 1971; Manooch III, 1977; Moor, Wilkinson, & Herbst, 1986; Delbeek & Williams, 1987; Nwadiaro & Okorie, 1987; Chipps & Garvey, 2007).

3.5. Frequency of dominance

The *frequency of dominance* ($\%D_{fj}$) (Southern, 1935) represents a percentage between the total numbers of stomachs of the species j in which the food category f occurred as dominant food ($Sf_{d_{fj}}$) and those in which only one food category dominated ($Sf_{1d_{fj}}$). An important adaptation proposal replaced the $Sf_{1d_{fj}}$ by the total number of stomachs with food analyzed for the species j (Sf_j) (Frost and Went 1940). This modification become this method an assessment of occurrence frequency concerning the preferred food consumed (Hynes, 1950).

$$\%D_{fj} = \left(\frac{S_{d_{fj}}}{Sf_j} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq9

Nevertheless, the criteria to determine what is dominance is subjective. The dominant food category can be defined as that category that concentrated 50% or higher proportion

(Corbet, 1961) either of the bulk (i.e. volume, Southern (1935)) or weight (Newsome & Gee, 1978; Willoughby & Tweddle, 1978)) or the amount (Blake, 1977) of the total food present in the stomach evaluated. Synonyms to $\%D_{fj}$ include *dominance method* (Hynes, 1950).

3.6. Points method

The *points method* ($\%P_{fj}$) (Swynnerton & Worthington, 1940) allocates values (i.e. points) (P_{fi}) for each food category f present in the stomach of the species j . Food categories with both higher abundance and bulk receive highest scores than those less representative and with lower volume. An adaptation proposal (Frost, 1943; Hynes, 1950) represented a milestone for the $\%P_{fj}$. Firstly, each stomach should be pointed according to arbitrary preset values ($\sum P_{fi}$) considering their degree of stomach fullness (DSF_i). Afterward, these points should be proportionally distributed among the different food categories f consumed by the specimen i (P_{fi}) considering the proportion and volume occupied by each food category in the stomach. The last step consists in dividing this outcome by the total number of stomachs with food analyzed for the species j (Sf_j):

$$\%P_{fj} = \frac{1}{Sf_j} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{Sf} \left(\frac{P_{fi}}{\sum_{i=1}^f P_{fi}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq10

Most of the adaptation proposals to the $\%P_{fj}$ focused on the scale values adopted to pointing either the stomach *per se* or the stomach content bulk. Concerning the stomach *per se*, proposals assigned different score values (usually with different number of categories) considering either the degree of stomach fullness (DSF_i) (Swynnerton & Worthington, 1940;

Rao, 1964) or estimates regarding the maximum potential of stomach repletion, obtained by regression models (Thompson, 1959; Godfriaux, 1969; Allen & Wootton, 1984), or the gastrosomatic relationship (GSR_i) (O'Brien & Fives, 1994). Nonetheless, some proposals assigned a unique score value for all the stomachs, regardless its repletion level (Macer, 1977; Donald, Anderson, & Mayhood, 1980). Regarding the stomach content bulk, proposals assigned score values according either to the total volume of the stomach content (Graham & Jones, 1962; Braga, 1999) or to the specimen body size (Smily, 1955) or the GSR_i (Xie, Cui, & Li, 2001). Other proposals considered either the size (Gysels *et al.* 1997) or the weight (Azuma & Motomura, 1998) of the consumed food items.

Other adaptation proposals focused on the $\%P_{fi}$ calculation. Some proposals build indices that combine the values assigned to the stomachs with those assigned to the food categories (Linfield, 1980; Mitchell, 1984; Brewer & Warburton, 1992) and the specimen body length (Tippets & Moyle, 1978; Harris, 1985). Other proposal replaced the $\sum P_{fi}$ by the Sf_j (Braga, 1999).

Synonyms combine terms regarding to *points* and *volume* with *abundance*, *analysis*, *composition*, *diet*, *fullness*, *index*, *method*, *percentage*, *scheme*, *system* and *total* (Hynes, 1950; Le Roux, 1956; Thompson, 1959; Toor, 1964; Munro, 1967; Sinha & Jones, 1967; Godfriaux, 1969; King, 1988b; Lima-Junior & Gotein, 2001; Shepherd & Clarkson, 2001).

3.7. Rank method

The *rank method* ($\%R_{fi}$) (Pollard 1973), also named *ranking method* (Cadwallader & Douglas, 1986), ponders the bulk of the food categories f consumed by the species j employing ranking techniques (similar to that used in non-parametric statistical methods). The food categories bulk is measured and organized (i.e. listed) from the bulkiest to the least ones.

The next step consists in allocating values to all food categories corresponding to their ranking positions. Afterwards, each rank position value is subtracted from the total number of food categories consumed by the specimen i . The rank value is expressed as a percentage of the total values allocated. The original proposal (Pollard, 1973) gives more one point to each rank position (Table 1). A modification proposal suppressed this extra point (Jackson, 1976).

Table 1 Methodological steps in the rank method allocation points considering the stomach contents of a given fish specimen

Food items	Volume (ml)	Rank position	k	Rank calculation	Individual rank value (R_{fi})
A	22	1	5	$5-1+1 = 5$	$5 \div 15 = 0.33$
B	16	2	5	$5-2+1 = 4$	$4 \div 15 = 0.27$
C	13	3	5	$5-3+1 = 3$	$3 \div 15 = 0.20$
D	7	4	5	$5-4+1 = 2$	$2 \div 15 = 0.13$
E	2	5	5	$5-5+1 = 1$	$1 \div 15 = 0.07$
Total	60		5	15	1,00

To respect the precept of data repetition, $\%R_{fi}$ should be calculated for each fish specimen i and, afterward, weighted by the total number of stomachs with food analyzed for the species j (Sf_j):

$$\%R_{ij} = \frac{1}{Sf_j} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{Sf} \left(\frac{R_{fi}}{\sum_{i=1}^f R_{fi}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq11

3.8. Prey-specific abundance

The *prey-specific abundance* ($\%PS_{fi}$) (Amundsen, Gabler, & Staldvik, 1996) could be calculated considering the amount or weight/volume. Assuming a gravimetric (W)

perspective as example, the $\%PS_{W_{fi}}$ represents a percentage between the weight of the food category f consumed by a given specimen i (W_{fi}) and the total weight of all food categories consumed by this same specimen. While other single indices are weighted by the total number of stomachs with food analyzed for the species j (Sf_j), the $\%PS_{W_{fi}}$ is weighted only by the number of stomachs of the species j in which only the food category f occurred (Sf_{fi}):

$$\%PS_{W_{fi}} = \frac{1}{Sf_{fi}} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{Sf} \left(\frac{W_{fi}}{\sum_{i=1}^f W_{fi}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq12

4. Composite indices

Several composite indices (previously denominated as *compound indices*, Hyslop, 1980) were developed independently by different researchers for fish trophic assessments. Due to this, some composite indices present the same mathematical expression and distinct names. In the other hand, distinct mathematical expressions received the same name. Moreover, almost all composite indices have been modified from their original formulae. In this section indices' authorship, names and equations were correctly presented and standardized.

4.1. Index of Preponderance

The *Index of Preponderance* (IP_{if}) (Natarajan & Jhingran, 1961) is expressed as percentage by the equation:

$$IP_{fi} = \left(\frac{\%V_{fi} \cdot \%O_{fi}}{\sum (\%V_{fi} \cdot \%O_{fi})} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq13

Modification proposals replaced the $\%V_{fi}$ either by the $\%P_{fi}$ (Luther 1962) or by the $\%W_{fi}$ (Pitcher 1980) or by the $\%D_{fi}$ (Cardona & Castelló, 1989) or by the $\%N_{fi}$ (Argillier, Barral, & Irz 2012). Other proposals replaced the $\%O_{fi}$ either by the $\%PO_{fi}$ (Natarajan & Jhingran, 1961; Mohan & Sakaran, 1988) or by the caloric value of the food category (Probst *et al.*, 1984).

As IP_{fi} has been independently developed several times in different countries (India, Brazil, France, Nigeria and Russia), it received several different names. These names include *feeding index* (Kawakami & Vazzoler, 1980), *modified index of relative importance* (Pitcher, 1980, 1981), *prey importance index* (Probst *et al.*, 1984 as a modification proposal derived from the *index of relative importance*, presented below), *index of food dominance* (King, 1990), *index of relative significance* Reshetnikov *et al.*, 1993; Popova & Reshetnikov, 2011), *food ponderal index* (King, 1994), *food index* (Hahn, Agostinho, & Goitein, 1997), *alimentary index* (Alvim, Maia-Barbosa, & Alves, 1998), *alimentary importance index* (Salvador-Jr, Salvador, & Santos, 2009) and *dominance index* (Montaña & Winemiller, 2013).

4.2. Index of Relative Importance

The *Index of Relative Importance* (IRI_{fi}) (Pinkas, Oliphant, & Iverson, 1971) is expressed as percentage (according the modification proposal of Simenstad, 1977) by the equation:

$$IRI_{\hat{f}} = \left(\frac{(\%N_{\hat{f}} + \%V_{\hat{f}}) \cdot \%O_{\hat{f}}}{\sum (\%N_{\hat{f}} + \%V_{\hat{f}}) \cdot \%O_{\hat{f}}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq14

Other modification proposals replaced the $\%V_{\hat{f}}$ either by the $\%W_{\hat{f}}$ (Simenstad & Kinney, 1978) or by the $\%P_{\hat{f}}$ (Coetzee, 1986). Alternatively, the $\%O_{\hat{f}}$ was replaced by the $\%PO_{\hat{f}}$ (Rosecchi & Nouaze, 1987). Drastic proposals eliminated the $\%N_{\hat{f}}$ from the equation (Pitcher & Calkins, 1979); other ones included $\%W_{\hat{f}}$ in the computation leading to compute energetic assessments twice (Coleman & Mobley, 1984). Other proposal changed the original mathematical functions of sum by multiplication (Muir, Emmett, & McConnell, 1986); it makes $IRI_{\hat{f}}$ similar to the *relative importance index* of George & Hadley (1979) (section 4.7). Synonyms include *index of relative abundance* (Pitcher & Calkins, 1979) and *relative importance value* (Coetzee, 1986).

4.3. Food Quotient

The *Food Quotient* (*quotient alimentaire*, Hureau 1970) is expressed as percentage (according the modification proposal of Rosecchi & Nouaze, 1987) by the equation:

$$FQ_{\hat{f}} = \left(\frac{\%N_{\hat{f}} \cdot \%W_{\hat{f}}}{\sum \%N_{\hat{f}} \cdot \%W_{\hat{f}}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq15

Modification proposals replaced the $\%W_{\hat{f}}$ either by the $\%P_{\hat{f}}$ (Lima-Junior & Goitein, 2001) or by the $\%V_{\hat{f}}$ (Leclerc *et al.*, 2014). Synonyms include *coefficient alimentaire* (Vivien, 1973), *alimentary coefficient* (Harmelin-Vivien & Bouchon, 1976), *main food* (Berg, 1979) and *importance index* (Lima-Junior & Goitein, 2001).

4.4. Hobson-Chess' Index

Originally named as *Ranking Index* (Hobson & Chess, 1973), it is expressed as:

$$HC_{\hat{i}} = \%V_{\hat{i}} \cdot \left(\frac{Sf_{\hat{i}}}{S_j} \right)$$

Eq16

Modification proposal replaced the $\%V_{\hat{i}}$ by the $\%P_{\hat{i}}$ (Christensen, 1978). Synonym include *comparative feeding index* (Christensen, 1978),

4.5. Food Index

The *Food Index* (*indice alimentaire*, Lauzanne, 1975) is expressed as:

$$FI_{\hat{i}} = \frac{\%V_{\hat{i}} \cdot \%O_{\hat{i}}}{100}$$

Eq17

Modification proposals replaced the $\%O_{\hat{i}}$ by $\%PO_{\hat{i}}$ (Rosecchi & Nouaze, 1987). Alternatively, the $\%V_{\hat{i}}$ was replaced by the $\%W_{\hat{i}}$ (Raymundo-Huizar & Lozano, 2008). Synonyms include *feeding index* (Kraiem, 1996).

4.6. Kurian' index

Originally named as *Index of Relative Importance* (Kurian, 1977), it is expressed by the equation:

$$KI_{\hat{i}} = \left(\frac{\frac{\%V_{\hat{i}} \cdot \%O_{\hat{i}}}{\%N_{\hat{i}}}}{\sum \frac{\%V_{\hat{i}} \cdot \%O_{\hat{i}}}{\%N_{\hat{i}}}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq18

4.7. George-Hadley' index

Originally named as *Relative Importance Index* (George & Hadley, 1979), it is expressed as:

$$GH_{ij} = \left(\frac{\%N_{ij} \cdot \%W_{ij} \cdot \%O_{ij}}{\sum (\%N_{ij} \cdot \%W_{ij} \cdot \%O_{ij})} \right) \cdot 100$$

Eq19

Modification proposals replaced the $\%O_{ij}$ by $\%PO_{ij}$ (Rosecchi & Nouaze 1987). Alternatively, the $\%W_{ij}$ was replaced either by the $\%V_{ij}$ (Price, Tonn, & Paszkowski, 1991) or by the $\%P_{ij}$ (Ayoade, Fagade, & Adebisi, 2008). Drastic proposals eliminated some parameters from the original equation, as the $\%W_{ij}$ (Townsend, 1983) or the $\%N_{ij}$ (Price *et al.*, 1991) (in the last case, making GH_{ij} similar to IP_{ij} of Natarajan & Jhingran, 1961). Synonym include *index of relative importance* (Williams & Williams, 1980).

4.8. Granado-García Index

Originally named as *Index of Food Importance* (Granado-Lorencio & García-Novo, 1986), it is expressed by the equation:

$$GG_{ij} = \frac{\sum (\%O_{ij} \cdot k_f)}{n_k - 1}$$

Eq20

This index requires the estimate of the $\%O_{ij}$ of the different food categories consumed and the classification of each food category into a scale (k_f) according to their frequency of occurrence and abundance, where n_k represents the total number of k_f categories established. Originally, Granado-Lorencio & García-Novo (1986) employed a scale with four k_f .

Synonymies include *alimentary importance index* (Vilella, Becker, & Hartz, 2002; Yafe et al., 2002), *index of alimentary importance* (Dufech, Azevedo, & Fialho, 2003) and *feeding importance index* (Nunes & Hartz, 2006).

4.9. Main Food Item

The *Main Food Item* (Zander, 1982) is expressed as percentage (according to the modification proposal of Rosecchi & Nouaze, 1987) by the equation:

$$MFI_{fi} = \frac{\left(\sqrt{\%W_{fi} \cdot \left(\frac{\%N_{fi} + \%O_{fi}}{2} \right)} \right)}{\left(\sum \sqrt{\%W_{fi} \cdot \left(\frac{\%N_{fi} + \%O_{fi}}{2} \right)} \right)} \cdot 100$$

Eq21

Modification proposals replaced the $\%O_{fi}$ by the $\%PO_{fi}$ (Rosecchi & Nouaze, 1987). Alternatively, the $\%W_{fi}$ was replaced by the $\%P_{fi}$ (Pasquaud, Girardin, & Élie, 2004).

4.10. Simple Resultant Index

The *Simple Resultant Index* (Mohan & Sankaran, 1988) is expressed as:

$$SRI_{fi} = \frac{\left(\sqrt{\%V_{fi}^2 + \%PO_{fi}^2} \right)}{\left(\sum \sqrt{\%V_{fi}^2 + \%PO_{fi}^2} \right)} \cdot 100$$

Eq22

Modification proposals replaced the $\%V_{fi}$ either by the $\%W_{fi}$ (Figueiredo et al., 2005) or by the $\%N_{fi}$ (Ara et al., 2009). Alternatively, the $\%PO_{fi}$ was replaced by the $\%O_{fi}$ (Ara et al., 2009).

This index can be graphically interpreted against the Cartesian coordinate system. For this end, Mohan & Sankaran (1988) developed the *Weighted Resultant Index* that apply circular statistic principles on the RS_{fj} .

4.11. *King' Index*

Originally named as *Index of Relative Importance* (King, 1988b), it is expressed as:

$$KI_{fj} = \%PO_{fj} + \%P_{fj}$$

Eq23

4.12. *King' Preponderance Index*

Originally named as *Index of Food Preponderance* (King, 1989), it is expressed as:

$$KPI_{fj} = \frac{\%PO_{fj} + \%D_{fj}}{2}$$

Eq24

4.13. *Geometric Index of Importance*

The *Geometric Index of Importance* (GII_{fj}) (Assis, 1996) represents the arithmetic mean among different single indices used to describe the diet of a given fish species. The $\%DM_{fj}$ represents diet measures (e.g. $\%O_{fj}$, $\%N_{fj}$, $\%W_{fj}$, $\%V_{fj}$) and n_{DM} represents the number of diet measures used in the index

$$GII_{fj} = \frac{\sum (DM_{1fj} + DM_{2fj} + \dots + DM_{n_{fj}})}{n_{DM}}$$

Eq25

4.14. Modified Food Object Number

The *Modified Food Object Number* (Udo, 2002b) is expressed as:

$$MFON_{\bar{j}} = \%O_{\bar{j}} + \%P_{\bar{j}} \cdot (\%O_j \cup \%P_j)^{-1}$$

Eq26

4.15. Prey-Specific Index of Relative Importance

The *Pre-Specific Index of Relative Importance* ($PSIRI_{\bar{j}}$) (Brown *et al.*, 2012) is expressed by the equation:

$$PSIRI_{\bar{j}} = \frac{\%O_{\bar{j}} \cdot (\%PS_{N_{\bar{j}}} + \%PS_{W_{\bar{j}}})}{2}$$

Eq27

As in the other indices, the measures of weight can be replaced by volume ($\%PS_{V_{\bar{j}}}$).

When the researcher has neither $\%PS_{N_{\bar{j}}}$ nor $\%PS_{W_{\bar{j}}}$ nor $\%PS_{V_{\bar{j}}}$, the $PSIRI_{\bar{j}}$ can be expressed either as $PSIRI_{\bar{j}} = \%O_{\bar{j}} \cdot \%PS_{W_{\bar{j}}}$ or $PSIRI_{ij} = \%O_{\bar{j}} \cdot \%PS_{V_{\bar{j}}}$ or $PSIRI_{ij} = \%O_{\bar{j}} \cdot \%PS_{N_{\bar{j}}}$.

5. Modelling of feeding levels, trends and behaviors

5.1. Quantification of stomach content, filling rate and energy budget

By considering initially empty stomach ($S_0 = 0$), amount of food in a fish stomach at a given time t (S_t) was predicted by continuous model tending to a steady state under the gradual effect of volume saturation (Elliot & Pearson, 1978), where F is the feeding rate and R is the evacuation (digestion) rate:

$$S_t = \frac{F}{R} (1 - e^{-Rt})$$

Eq28

Assuming a constant feeding rate F , the total amount (A_t) consumed in a time range t can be calculated by (Elliot & Pearson, 1978):

$$A_t = Ft$$

Eq29

The first derivative of this function gives the rate of filling of the stomach that corresponds to the rate of change of hunger:

$$\frac{dS_t}{dt} = Fe^{-Rt}$$

Eq30

By combining **(Eq31)** and **(Eq33)** one obtains:

$$\frac{dS_t}{dt} = F - RS_t$$

Eq31

In other modeling way, this rate was calculated by considering also the body mass (M) (Esposito *et al.*, 2010), where S_{max} is the maximum capacity of predator' stomach and k_H is the handling rate:

$$\frac{dS_t}{dt} = \min[M, (S_{max} - S_t)]k_H - RS_t$$

Eq32

The S_{max} value can be calculated as an allometric function of the individual body mass (Basset, Fedele, & DeAngelis, 2002), where α is the allometric constant independent of body mass and β is the allometric scaling exponent:

$$F_{\max} = \alpha M^{\beta}$$

Eq33

At the steady state, the amount of food in the stomach reaches equilibrium S_{eq} associated with null rate of filling (Elliot & Pearson, 1978; Dill, 1983):

$$\frac{dS_t}{dt} = 0 \Leftrightarrow F = RS_{eq} \Leftrightarrow S_{eq} = \frac{F}{R}$$

Eq34

Analytic expression of S_{eq} can be also obtained directly from (31) for $t = +\infty$.

After rearrangement of (Eq34) and (Eq37), the feeding rate F can be expressed by:

$$F = RS_{eq} = \frac{dS_t}{dt} + RS_t$$

Eq35

More realistic models to estimate feeding rate were developed by considering variable F as a decreasing function of satiation S_t . Decrease of F in relation to S_t can occur by linear, power or exponential way (Dill, 1983), where $F_{\max}$ is the filling rate at maximal fish hunger (i.e. at $S_t = 0$):

$$F = F_{\max} - aS_t \quad (\text{Linear}) \quad (\text{Eq36})$$

$$F = F_{\max} - aS_t^b \quad (\text{Power}) \quad (\text{Eq37})$$

$$F = F_{\max} - ae^{S_t b} \quad (\text{Exponential}) \quad (\text{Eq38})$$

The linear case is solvable and gives two complex analytic forms of satiation (S_t) and rate of change of hunger (dS_t / dt):

$$S_t = \frac{F_{\max}(1 - e^{-Rt})}{R + a(1 - e^{-Rt})}$$

(Eq39)

And

$$\frac{dS_t}{dt} = \frac{RF_{\max}}{R + a(1 - e^{-Rt})} e^{-Rt} \left[1 - \frac{a(1 - e^{-Rt})}{R + a(1 - e^{-Rt})} \right]$$

(Eq40)

Identifying decision rules associated with optimal feeding requires evaluation of foraging level and quality. Profitability (PF) concept was initially introduced as the ratio of energy gained (E) per handling time unit (H) (Krebs, 1978), where PF corresponds to energetic efficiency or net energy gain per unit of time:

$$PF = \frac{E}{H}$$

(Eq41)

In a shell capture model, prey (mussel) size-dependent PF was formalized taking into account energy content (E), probability of opening (P), handling time for opening (H), time wasted on unopened prey (W), probability of failing to open prey ($1 - P$) (Meire & Eryvnck, 1986):

$$PF = \frac{E \times P}{H \times P + W(1 - P)}$$

(Eq42)

5.2. Assessment of food availability

The *total food resources available* (FR) was formalized in individual-based model in relation to both prey abundance and body mass in different observation patches (Esposito *et al.*,

2010), where p is the patch index evaluated, n is the total number of patches, A_p is the prey items abundance and M_p is the prey items mass:

$$FR = \sum_{p=1}^n A_p M_p$$

Eq43

The heterogeneity of A_p (E_A) and M_p (E_M) associated to inter-patch variation was assessed by *Pielou' evenness index* based on *Shannon diversity index* (Esposito *et al.*, 2010), where A is the average prey abundance (mean of all patches), M is the average prey body mass (mean of all patches) and n is the total number of patches:

$$E_A = \frac{-\sum_{p=1}^n \left(\frac{A_p}{nA} \cdot \ln \frac{A_p}{nA} \right)}{\ln n}$$

Eq44

And

$$E_M = \frac{-\sum_{p=1}^n \left(\frac{M_p}{nM} \cdot \ln \frac{M_p}{nM} \right)}{\ln n}$$

Eq45

5.3. Analysis of feeding modulation factors

Under assumption of abundant food and scarce (limited) time, foragers are more likely energy limited. The total net gain G while foraging for a spent time t_f was expressed in relation to energy expenditure on feeding c and rate of intake b (Ydenberg & Hurd, 1998):

$$G = (b - c)t_f$$

(Eq46)

Higher c and b correspond to higher foraging work and higher return, respectively.

The spent foraging time t_f corresponds to that required to reach the energy limit (E) at rate of intake b , $t_f = E / b$, leading to another analytical expression of total net gain G :

$$G = E \left(1 - \frac{c}{b} \right) \quad (\text{Eq47})$$

Taking into account resting time t_r (after foraging stops) and metabolic rate r , daily gained energy G_d was formalized by (Houston, 1995):

$$G_d = t_f (b - c) - t_r r \quad (\text{Eq48})$$

Leading to equivalent expression:

$$G_d = E \left(1 - \frac{c}{b} + \frac{r}{b} \right) - r(t_f + t_r) \quad (\text{Eq49})$$

Variation of body mass of predator was modeled by (Esposito *et al.*, 2010):

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = \begin{cases} S_t \cdot R \cdot a - C_F & \text{if food is active} \\ -C_k & \text{if food is not active} \end{cases} \quad (\text{Eq50})$$

where S_t is the amount of food in the stomach at time t ; R is the evacuation (digestion) rate; a is the assimilation efficiency of digested food that becomes available for growth or physiological processes (Begon, Townsend, & Harper, 2008); C_F is the cost of food processing; and C_K is the resting, searching or community energy costs.

Growth rate (g) represents the elementary change in body size (s) per time unit (Houston & McNamara, 1989; Ludwig & Rowe, 1990; McNamara & Houston, 1994): $g = ds / dt$. Growth rate g of bluehead chub (*Nocomis leptocephalus*) was expressed as balance between feeding gains ($k \cdot f$) and loss ($w \cdot s$) components (Koojman, 2000; Lika & Nisbet, 2000), where k is the assimilation-conversion efficiency; f is the feeding rate (mass.time⁻¹; mg.d⁻¹); s is the body size (mass); and w is the mass-specific maintenance rate:

$$g = \frac{ds}{dt} = k \cdot f - w \cdot s \quad (\text{Eq51})$$

These parameters were also used to formalize the difference between current $s(t)$ and initial body size $s(0)$ states:

$$S(t) - S(0) = \left[\frac{k \cdot f}{w} - S(0) \right] (1 - e^{-w \cdot t}) \quad (\text{Eq52})$$

General balance of feeding is expressed by the depletion of pellets dR / dt over the course of an experimental trial taking into account that feeding rate is a nonlinear function of foraging effort ($f(\varepsilon)$) and that the fish species consume pellets according to Holling type II functional response (Holling, 1959; Abrams, 1982, 1991; Houston & McNamara, 1989; Werner & Anholt, 1993; Leonardsson & Johansson, 1997; Skalski & Gilliams, 2002):

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = - \left[\frac{a \cdot \varepsilon \cdot R}{1 + a \cdot \varepsilon \cdot R \cdot H} \right] n = - f(\varepsilon) n \quad (\text{Eq53})$$

where $R(t)$ is the amount of pellets (mg) occurring at time t ; ε is the foraging effort ($0 \leq 1$) (maximum effort is associated to $\varepsilon = 1$); n is the number of individuals fish (population size); H is the handling time (h.mg^{-1}); and a is the capture rate at maximum foraging effort (h^{-1}).

Also, prey mortality was used as negative constraint to predict feeding state of the predator (Abrams, 1982, 1991; Houston & McNamara, 1989; Werner & Anholt, 1993; Leonardsson & Johansson, 1997; Skalski & Gilliams, 2002):

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = -\alpha p n = -\mu(\varepsilon)n \quad (\text{Eq54})$$

where n is the number of prey; p is the number of predators; ε is the foraging effort of the prey; α is the predator capture rate at maximum prey foraging effort ε ; and $\mu(\varepsilon)$ is the prey per capita mortality rate supposed to be linear in ε .

5.4. Analysis and optimization of foraging behaviors

Model maximizing rate of energy intake was applied to predict coral fish diet on the basis of ratio between two linear combinations associated to feeding gain and cost (Tricas, 1989):

$$\frac{E}{T} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i E_i}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i H_i} \quad (\text{Eq55})$$

where E/T is the rate of energy intake; E is the total energy gain; T is the total foraging time; n is the number of coral species (preys); E_i is the energetic return for coral species i ; λ_i is the encounter rate of coral species i ; H_i is the handling time of coral species i .

Growth rate maximization model is associated with maximal foraging effort ($\varepsilon = 1$) regardless of predator presence or absence. It can arise in absence of growth-mortality trade-off. This model can be associated with **Eqs. 47, 51** (Ydenberg & Hurd, 1998). Applied to **Eq. 47**, it consists in determining the most efficient tactic (c) giving maximal gained energy (G).

Mortality risk minimization-based model focuses on the variation of foraging effort under threatening effects of predators or competing intruder species. In bluehead chubs threatened by predation from green sunfish, mortality risk was formalized by **Eq54**. Optimal foraging effort (ε) for mortality risk minimization was determined by (Brown, 1992):

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\omega s}{a(k - \omega sH)R} \quad (\text{Eq56})$$

where ω is the mass-specific maintenance rate (d^{-1}); s is the body size (mg wet mass); k is the assimilation-conversion efficiency; H is the handling time (h.mg^{-1}); a is the capture rate at maximum foraging effort (h^{-1}); and R is the amount of pellets.

Apart from filling rate of stomach (dS / dt), (**Eqs 33-35**), food depletion rate (**Eq53**) and mortality rate (**Eq54**), other models were developed taking into account reproductive rate (dV / dt). These models aimed to determine the foraging effort ε maximizing the fitness under the control of age t and/or body size s (Houston & McNamara, 1989, 1999; Ludwig & Rowe, 1990; McNamara & Houston, 1994):

$$\frac{dV^*}{dt} = \max_{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{dV^*}{ds} g(\varepsilon) - \mu(\varepsilon)V^* \right)$$

(Eq57)

where V^* is the reproductive value of forager species that behaves optimally over the remaining lifetime (which depends both on body size s and age t , $V^*(s,t)$); $g(\varepsilon)$ is the growth rate or change in body size per time; and $\omega(\varepsilon)$ is the mortality rate.

An optimization model was based on linear combination of growth and mortality rates ($g(\varepsilon)$ and $\omega(\varepsilon)$). By dividing the terms of Eq55 by V^* , one obtains:

$$\frac{dV^*}{V^* dt} = \max_{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{dV^*}{V^* ds} g(\varepsilon) - \mu(\varepsilon) \right) = \max_{\varepsilon} (\theta g(\varepsilon) - \mu(\varepsilon))$$

(Eq58)

Where $\theta = \frac{dV^*}{V^* ds}$ is the marginal rate of substitution of mortality rate for growth rate (*MRS*) (mass^{-1} , e.g. mg^{-1}).

High θ indicates foraging behavior more governed by investment in growth than avoidance in death. Thus, *MRS* provides a conceptual connection between behavior and life history.

Reproductive rate model (Eq55) was separately considered under two enclosed conditions by supposing (dV^*/dt) as null (simplified model A) or not (general model B). Model A provided simplification making reproductive value to depend only on body size and not on age or time of year (Werner & Gilliam, 1984). Under this static assumption, the optimal foraging effort ε was conditionally determined as:

$$\varepsilon = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } R < \sqrt{\frac{\omega s}{kH}} \frac{1}{a \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{\omega s H}{k}}\right)} \\ \sqrt{\frac{\omega s}{kH}} \frac{1}{a \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{\omega s H}{k}}\right) R} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(Eq59)

where ω is the mass-specific maintenance rate (d^{-1}); s is the body size (mg wet mass); k is the assimilation-conversion efficiency; H is the handling time ($h \cdot mg^{-1}$); a is the capture rate at maximum foraging effort (h^{-1}); and R is the amount of pellets.

Model B provide more generalist assumption that reproductive value depends both on body size- and age, the optimal foraging effort (ε) of bluehead chub in presence of green sunfish (predator) was conditionally determined as (Houston & McNamara, 1989; Ludwig & Rowe, 1990; McNamara & Houston, 1994):

$$\varepsilon = \begin{cases} \frac{\omega s}{a(k - \omega s H) R} & \text{if } R < \frac{\alpha p}{ka \theta} \\ \left(\sqrt{\frac{ka \theta R}{\alpha p}} - 1 \right) \frac{1}{a H R} & \text{if } \frac{\alpha p}{ka \theta} < R < \frac{\alpha p (1 + a H R)^2}{ka \theta} \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(Eq60)

where ω is the mass-specific maintenance rate (d^{-1}); s is the body size (mg wet mass); p is the number of green sunfish predators; ε is the foraging effort of bluehead chub; α is the predator capture rate of green sunfish at maximum bluehead chub foraging effort ε ; k is the assimilation-conversion efficiency; H is the handling time ($h \cdot mg^{-1}$); a is the capture rate at maximum foraging effort (h^{-1}); R is the amount of pellets; and θ is the marginal rate of substitution of mortality rate for growth rate (mg^{-1}), (MSR).

6. References

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