

Population Structure of Grasscutter (*Thryonomys Swinderianus*, Temminck) in some Bushmeat Processing Centres

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The sexes and ages of grasscutters killed by hunters and deposited at bushmeat processing centres were assessed over a 12 - month study period. The overall result was compared with data from a grasscutter breeding centre in Ibadan, Nigeria. Both primary and secondary morphological indices of sex were used to identify sex and three broad categories viz: Adults, subadults, and juveniles were employed for age-classification. Sex ratio of field captured grasscutters was 48% males to 52% females. Monthly returns showed variations between male and female. The interaction between sex of grasscutters and period (months) of capture was significant ($P < 0.01$). Age ration data showed, 86% of population to be adults, 5% subadults and 9% juveniles. Age-sex composition generally showed more females than males in each of the age classes. Mean weight of adults ($4.28 \pm 0.22\text{kg}$) was significantly ($P < 0.01$) greater than that of subadults ($2.51 \pm 0.02\text{kg}$) and juvenile ($1.69 \pm 0.09\text{kg}$).