

Histological study of gonads in *Gerres abbreviatus* (Pisces: Perciformes), a silver-biddy

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The gonads of 498 *Gerres abbreviatus* collected from the commercial catches of the Jaffna lagoon, Sri Lanka were examined. Development stages of gonads were recorded macroscopically and microscopically. Histological sections of gonads characterized seven stages of ovary and four stages of testes in *G. abbreviatus*. Matured males recorded throughout the year expressed males spawn throughout the year. Ova diameter in *G. abbreviatus* ranged between 13.6 to 516.8 μm . The composite histograms based on the diameters of all oocytes found in the females at successive stages of maturation showed three modes in stages 3, 4, 5 & 6 ovaries. Most of the fully ripe ovaries characterized with three batches of matured eggs inferred *G. abbreviatus* spawn in three successive batches within the same prolonged spawning season. Indication of previous spawning ascertained by the ruptured ovarian follicles and resorbing ovulated ova and atretic ovarian follicles observed from October to February. Hence the breeding females of *G. abbreviatus* should be protected during the peak spawning period that is from October to February in order to maintain the sustainable fisheries of *G. abbreviatus*.

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