

AGE AND GROWTH OF TOP SNAIL *TELESCOPIUM TELESCOPIUM* (LINNE, 1758) IN MANGROVE ALONG NETHRAVATHI RIVER ESTUARY MANGALORE, KARNATAKA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT : Age and growth of top snail *Telescopium telescopium* (Linne 1758) in mangrove along Nethravathi river estuary Mangalore was studied during May 2009 and April 2010. The top snail *Telescopium telescopium* were collected at monthly interval from mangroves along Nethravathi estuary (12°44' N; 74°51' E). The calculated *b* value of length-weight relationship of *T. telescopium* was $W = -0.5072L^{2.5007}$. The estimated asymptotic length (L_{∞}) and growth constant (*K*) in *T. telescopium* was 12.28 cm and 0.63 year⁻¹ respectively. The theoretical age at the time of birth (t_0) was 0.045 years. The recruitment of *T. telescopium* was found to be upto 5 years. The total mortality (*Z*) was 3.74 year⁻¹. Based on ambient temperature (29.0 °C) the estimated natural mortality (*M*) and fishing mortality (*F*) were 1.72 year⁻¹ and 2.02 year⁻¹ respectively. The recruitment pattern was ranged from 2.06 (December 2009) to 19.42 % (April 2010). The *T. telescopium* showed a continuous recruitment throughout the study period.

Key words : *Telescopium*, age and growth, mortality, recruitment, mangrove.