

ABSTRACT

Body weight (BW), mantle length, and sex composition of *Sepia pharaonis* (Ehrenberg, 1831) and *Sepia recurvirostra* (Steenstrup, 1875) was determined from samples collected in the months of March, June, September and December of 2011 from the Visayan Sea. Both species were landed in Estancia, Iloilo where the samples were bought from a cuttlefish broker. A total of 258 *S. pharaonis* and 1,309 *S. recurvirostra* samples were collected with a mantle length range of 4.8-14.0 cm and a wet body weight of 19.1-370.0 g. Results showed that there are more *S. recurvirostra* (84%) than *S. pharaonis* (16%) in the Visayan Sea during the sampling period. Also, the sex composition of *S. pharaonis* and *S. recurvirostra* were mostly males. Regression analysis showed that the relationship between the mantle length and body weight was linear with a correlation coefficient of 0.929 for female and 0.913 for male *S. pharaonis*. The correlation coefficients of *S. recurvirostra* were lower for both female (0.870) and male (0.865). The equation derived from body weight (BW) and mantle length (ML) were BW = $38.195 \times ML - 230.021$ for female *S. pharaonis*; BW = $36.342 \times ML - 211.427$ for male *S. pharaonis*; BW = $26.489 \times ML - 131.740$ for female *S. recurvirostra*; and BW = $26.670 \times ML - 136.592$ for male *S. recurvirostra*. A linear length-weight relationship was observed, which is different from other studies which observed an exponential relationship.

Key words: *Sepia pharaonis*, *Sepia recurvirostra*, cuttlefish, Visayan Sea, length-weight relationship