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Stages of gonad development during the reproductive cycle of the blackfin snook, *Centropomus medius* Günther

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The reproductive biology of the Blackfin snook *Centropomus medius* was studied to expand our current knowledge on its aquaculture potential. From April 2001 to November 2002, 301 females and 193 males were captured. A 1:1.6 (male:female) ratio was found. Gonadosomatic (GSI) and hepatosomatic (HSI) indices suggested that the spawning period (SP) extended from September to November, with peak spawning activity in September (GSI=0.98% and HSI=0.7%). The period of pre-gametogenesis extended from January to June. During the post-SP in December, 90% of oocytes were pre-vitellogenic and 10% were atretic. Histological analysis of gonads (haematoxylin–eosin, Sudan black B, Alcian blue PAS, Cleveland Wolfe) showed five stages of oocyte development, each occurring at a characteristic range of oocyte diameters (

Palabras clave: Reproductive cycle, gonad development, *Centropomus medius*, blackfin snook

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