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 ±0.22kg) was significantly (P<0.01) greater than that of subadults (2.51 ± 0.02kg) and juvenile (1.69 ±0.09kg).