ARE SURFACE AREA AND SURFACE-AREA-TO-VOLUME RATIO RELATED TO SEX RATIOS IN CENTROBOLUS COOK, 1897?

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Abstract- In this paper, I check for relationships between male and female surface area and male and female surface area to volume ratio with sex ratio in two species of red millipedes *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897. Male surface area was related to sex ratio (Kendall's τ =-0.29417420, Z score=-60000, n=8, p=0). Male surface area-to-volume ratio was related to sex ratio (Kendall's τ =0.29417420, Z score=60000, n=8, p=0). Female surface area was related sex ratio (Kendall's τ =0.29417420, Z score=60000, n=8, p=0). Female surface-area-to-volume ratio was related to sex ratio (Kendall's τ =0.29417420, Z score=60000, n=8, p=0). Surface areas were not generally related to sex ratio (Kendall's τ =0, Z score=0, n=16, p=0.50). Surface-area-to-volume-ratios were generally related to sex ratios (r=0.45632174, Z score=1.77629563, n=16, p=0.03784205).

I. INTRODUCTION

A forest genus of diplopods belonging to the Order Spirobolida found along the eastern coast of southern Africa was the subject of this study. The millipede genus Centrobolus is found in the temperate South African subregion, its northern limits on the east coast of southern Africa being about -17° latitude S. It occurs in all the forests of the coastal belt from the Cape Peninsula to Beira in Mocambique. While the coastal forests of the South-West and Eastern Cape are mist belt temperate forests, those of the Transkei, Natal, Zululand and Mocambique are somewhat different, being better described as East Coast Bush, they are developed almost entirely in a narrow strip of the litoral on a dune sand substratum, and are more tropical in aspect and composition than those to the west of them. There is a summer rainfall of 762-1016mm, a uniform temperature, and an absence of frost; the component trees of the coastal bush with their abundant creepers and lianes, while not usually reaching a height of more than 11 meters, provide a dense covering with abundant shade and humidity at ground level. As essentially shadeloving Diplopoda, the members of the genus are especially well represented in these litoral forests of the eastern half of the subcontinent [1-84].

In this paper, from the results, I check for relationships between male and female surface area and male and female surface area to volume ratio with sex ratios in red millipedes *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Body volumes, surface areas, and surface area to volume ratios were calculated in two forest species of red millipedes *Centrobolus*. Two morphometric parameters were used to obtain measurements, length, and width, both of which were obtained from the published literature [17]. Body volumes were calculated based on the formula for a cylinder $V = \pi r^2 h$ and surface areas were calculated based on the formula for the same cylinder $SA = 2\pi r(r+h)$ in all species. Surface-area-to-volume ratios were calculated as proper fractions of surface area to volume. Sex ratios were given in two species of *Centrobolus* [2]. Kendall's and Pearson's correlation coefficients were used to checking for statistically significant results.

III. RESULTS

The male surface area was related to the sex ratio (Figure 1: Kendall's τ =-0.29417420, Z score=-60000, n=8, p=0). Male surface area-to-volume ratio was related to sex ratio (Figure 2: Kendall's τ =0.29417420, Z score=60000, n=8, p=0). Female surface area was related sex ratio (Figure 3: Kendall's τ =0.29417420, Z score=60000, n=8, p=0). Female surface-area-to-volume ratio was related to sex ratio (Figure 4: Kendall's τ =0.29417420, Z score =60000, n=8, p=0). Surface areas were not generally related to sex ratio (Kendall's τ =0, Z score=0, n=16, p=0.50). Surfacearea-to-volume-ratios were generally related to sex ratios (r=0.45632174, Z score=1.77629563, n=16, p=0.03784205).

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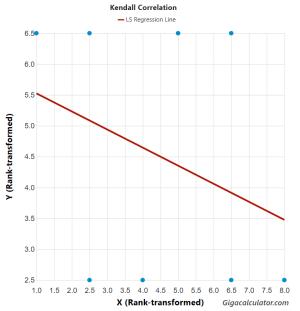


Figure 1. Relationship between male surface area and sex ratio in *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897.

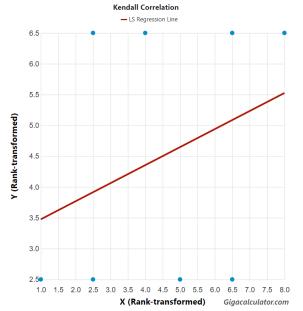


Figure 2. Relationship between female surface area and sex ratio in *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897.

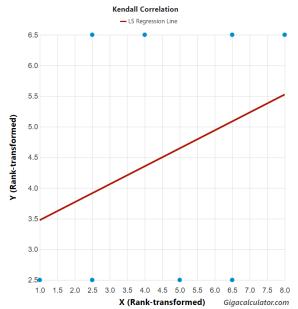


Figure 3. Relationship between male surface area-to-volume ratio and sex ratio in *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897.

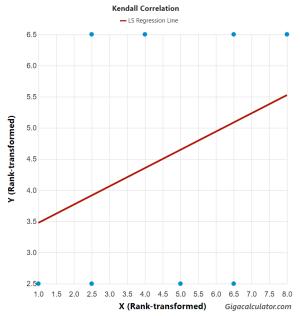


Figure 4. Relationship between female surface area-to-volume ratio and sex ratio in *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897.

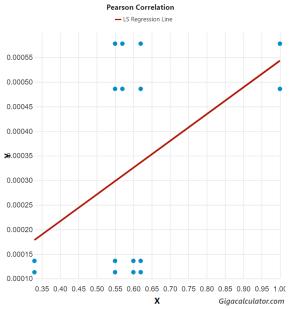


Figure 5. Relationship between sex ratio and surface area-to-volume ratio in *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897.

IV. DISCUSSION

Four new relationships are documented between the male and female surface area and surface area-to-volume ratio which was related to sex ratios. It suggests there are size patterns in worm-like millipedes that may affect the adaptability to and validity of biological rules [85, 86]. The significantly higher surface area-to-volume ratios of female forest millipedes is known [17]. The relationship between male and female surface area-to-volume ratios and sex ratios is new evidence for generally higher surface area-to-volume ratios associated with male-biased sex ratios.

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