ARE SURFACE AREA AND SURFACE-AREA-TO-VOLUME RATIO RELATED TO COPULATION DURATION 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 copulation duration in red millipedes Centrobolus Cook, 1897. Male surface area was not related to copulation duration (Kendall's τ =0, Z score=0, n=4, p=0.50). Male surface area-to-volume was related to copulation duration (Kendall's τ =-1, Z score=-2.32379001, n=4, p=0.01006835). Female surface area was not related to copulation duration (Kendall's $\tau = -0.333333333$, Z score=-0.77459667, p=0.21928894). Female surface-area-to-volume ratio was related to copulation duration (r=-1, Z score =-2.32379001, n=4, p=0.01006835). Surface-area-to-volume ratios were negatively related to copulation duration (Kendall's τ =-0.77151675, Z score=-200000, n=8, p=0).

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 copulation duration in red millipedes *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Body volumes, surface areas, and surface area to volume ratios were calculated in four 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. Copulation durations were given in four species of *Centrobolus* ^[1].

III. RESULTS

Male surface area was not related to copulation duration (Kendall's τ =0, Z score=0, n=4, p=0.50). Male surface area-to-volume ratio was related to copulation duration (Figure 1: Kendall's τ =-1, Z score=-2.32379001, n=4, p=0.01006835). Female surface area was not related to copulation duration (Kendall's τ =-0.333333333, Z score=-0.77459667, n=4, p=0.21928894). Female surface-area-to-volume ratio was related to copulation duration (r=-1, Z score =-2.32379001, n=4, p=0.01006835). Surface-area-to-volume ratios were related to copulation duration (Kendall's τ =-0.77151675, Z score=-200000, n=8, p=0).

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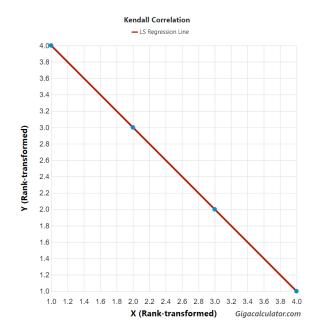


Figure 1. Relationship between male surface-area-to-volume ratio and copulation duration in *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897.

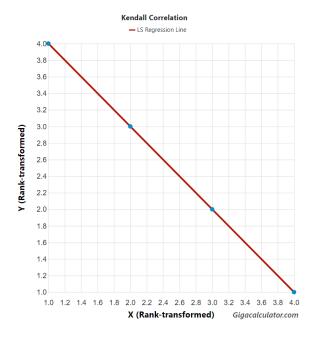


Figure 2. Relationship between female surface-area-to-volume ratio and copulation duration in *Centrobolus* Cook, 1897.

IV. DISCUSSION

Two new relationships are documented between the male surface area-to-volume ratio which was related to copulation duration and the female surface area-to-volume ratio which was related to copulation duration. It suggests there are

precipitation-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 copulation duration provides new evidence for lower surface areas associated with prolonged mateguarding in eastern species. The female surface-area-to-volume ratio was related to copulation duration may suggest that species with smaller females which are also found further east endure shorter copulations.

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