

Data Papers

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BODY SIZES OF CONSUMERS AND THEIR RESOURCES

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ULRICH BROSE,^{1,22} ERIC L. BRLOW,² TOMAS JONSSON,³ CAROLIN BANASEK-RICHTER,¹ LOUIS-FELIX BERSIER,⁴
JULIA L. BLANCHARD,⁵ THOMAS BREY,⁶ STEPHEN R. CARPENTER,⁷ MARIE-FRANCE CATTIN BLANDENIER,⁸
JOEL E. COHEN,⁹ LARA CUSHING,¹⁰ HASSAN ALI DAWAH,¹¹ TONY DELL,¹² FRANCOIS EDWARDS,¹³
SARAH HARPER-SMITH,¹⁴ UTE JACOB,⁶ ROLAND A. KNAPP,¹⁵ MARK E. LEDGER,¹³ NEO D. MARTINEZ,¹⁰
JANE MEMMOTT,¹⁶ KATJA MINTENBECK,⁶ JOHN K. PINNEGAR,⁵ BJÖRN C. RALL,¹ TOM RAYNER,¹⁷
LILIANE RUESS,¹ WERNER ULRICH,¹⁸ PHILIP WARREN,¹⁹ RICH J. WILLIAMS,¹⁰ GUY WOODWARD,²⁰
and PETER YODZIS^{21,23}

¹Department of Biology, Technical University of Darmstadt, 64287 Darmstadt, Germany

²White Mountain Research Station, University of California, San Diego, 3000 East Line Street, Bishop, California 93514 USA

³Department of Natural Science, University of Skövde, S-541 28 Skövde, Sweden

⁴Department of Biology, Unit of Ecology and Evolution, CH-1700 Fribourg, Switzerland

⁵The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), Pakefield Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0HT UK

⁶Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, 27568 Bremerhaven, Germany

⁷Center for Limnology, 680 North Park Street, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 USA

⁸Zoological Institute, Rue Emile-Argand 11, C.P. 2, CH-2007 Neuchâtel, Switzerland

⁹Laboratory of Populations, Rockefeller and Columbia Universities, New York, New York 10021 USA

¹⁰Pacific Ecoinformatics and Computational Ecology Lab, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Gothic, Colorado 81224 USA

¹¹King Khalid University, College of Science, Department of Biology, P.O. Box 9004, Abha, Saudi Arabia

¹²Department of Zoology and Tropical Ecology, James Cook University, Townsville, QLD 4811 Australia

¹³School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT UK

¹⁴Department of Biology, Seattle Pacific University, 3307 Third Avenue West, Seattle, Washington 98119 USA

¹⁵Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory, University of California, HCR 79, Box 198, Crowley Lake, California 93546 USA

¹⁶School of Biological Sciences, Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 3PZ UK

¹⁷School of Tropical Biology and Rainforest CRC, James Cook University, Townsville, 4811 Australia

¹⁸Department of Animal Ecology, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Gagarina 9, PL-87-100 Torun, Poland

¹⁹Department Animal and Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN UK

²⁰School of Biological Sciences, Queen Mary University of London, London, E1 4NS UK

²¹Department of Zoology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1 Canada

Abstract. Trophic information—who eats whom—and species' body sizes are two of the most basic descriptions necessary to understand community structure as well as ecological and evolutionary dynamics. Consumer–resource body size ratios between predators and their prey, and parasitoids and their hosts, have recently gained increasing attention due to their important implications for species' interaction strengths and dynamical population stability. This data set documents body sizes of consumers and their resources. We gathered body size data for the food webs of Skipwith Pond, a parasitoid community of grass-feeding chalcid wasps in British grasslands; the pelagic community of the Benguela system, a source web based on broom in the United Kingdom; Broadstone Stream, UK; the Grand Cariçaie marsh at Lake Neuchâtel, Switzerland; Tuesday Lake, USA; alpine lakes in the Sierra Nevada of California; Mill Stream, UK; and the eastern Weddell Sea Shelf, Antarctica. Further consumer–resource body size data are included for planktonic predators, predatory nematodes, parasitoids, marine

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²² E-mail: brose@bio.tu-darmstadt.de

²³ Deceased.

fish predators, freshwater invertebrates, Australian terrestrial consumers, and aphid parasitoids. Containing 16 807 records, this is the largest data set ever compiled for body sizes of consumers and their resources. In addition to body sizes, the data set includes information on consumer and resource taxonomy, the geographic location of the study, the habitat studied, the type of the feeding interaction (e.g., predacious, parasitic) and the metabolic categories of the species (e.g., invertebrate, ectotherm vertebrate). The present data set was gathered with the intent to stimulate research on effects of consumer–resource body size patterns on food-web structure, interaction-strength distributions, population dynamics, and community stability. The use of a common data set may facilitate cross-study comparisons and understanding of the relationships between different scientific approaches and models.

Key words: allometry; body length; body mass; body size ratio; food webs; parasitoid–host; predation; predator–prey.

The complete data sets corresponding to abstracts published in the Data Papers section of the journal are published electronically in *Ecological Archives* at (<http://esapubs.org/archive>). (The accession number for each Data Paper is given directly beneath the title.)