

**Weight—length relationship and Fulton's condition factor of the alligator pipefish,
Syngnathoides biaculeatus (Bloch, 1785) from Southeast coast of India**

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Abstract

Present study provides information on weight–length relationship (WLR) and Fulton's condition factor (' K ') of the alligator pipefish, *Syngnathoides biaculeatus* (Bloch, 1785) sampled from Palk Bay (PB) and Gulf of Mannar (GoM) regions, Southeast coast of India. The pooled estimate for the parameter ' b ' of the WLR ($W = aTL^b$) for *S. biaculeatus* ($n = 217$) was determined to be 1.75 indicating the negative allometric growth pattern ($b < 3$). The ' K ' values ranged from 0.65 to 1.35 (pooled, 0.84) and from 0.68 to 1.27 (pooled, 0.85) for populations of *S. biaculeatus* collected from PB ($n = 120$) and GoM ($n = 97$), respectively. The results of this study may help to address the concerns of conservation of *S. biaculeatus* in the wake of habitat loss and/or incidental by-catch.

Key words: weight–length relationship, alligator pipefish, *Syngnathoides biaculeatus*, Fulton's condition factor (' K '), Palk Bay, Gulf of Mannar