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Description of the growth of Nile tilapia (*Linnaeus*, 1758) *Oreochromis niloticus* in the Tigris River south of Baghdad

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Abstract : The present study was carried out in the Tigris river south of Baghdad for the period from July 2016 to April 2017. During which 169 fish were harvested. *Oreochromis niloticus* Nile tilapia ranged from 68 to 274 mm in length and total weights from 6.6 to 378.79 g. Water temperatures ranged between 31 and 8.5c. With values of pH ranges from 7.2 and 7.8. The values of dissolved oxygen ranged from $11.5g^{-1}$ to $7.1g^{-1}$ and salinity values were recorded from $0.82g^{-1}$ to $0.44g^{-1}$. The physic-chemical properties were suitable for the growth and living of Nile tilapia in the Tigris River. The relationship between total length and weight was found to be allometric 2.039. The growth criteria values were k 0.108 and t_o 0.27. Maximum expected length L_{∞} of fish reaches 293.68 mm. The average condition factor was 2.67. Six age groups were identified and recorded the highest increase in length during the first year of the fish's life and by 34.10%.

Keywords: Nile tilapia. Age and growth. Tigris River, Condation factor.

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