

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH CURVE OF PACU AND THE PATINGA HYBRID

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The species tambaqui (*Colossoma macropomum*), pacu (*Piaractus mesopotamicus*), and pirapitinga (*Piaractus brachypomus*) and the hybrids tambacu (female *C. macropomum* × male *P. mesopotamicus*), tambatinga (female *C. macropomum* × male *P. brachypomus*), and patinga (female *P. mesopotamicus* × male *P. brachypomus*) are commonly clustered in a group named 'round fish'. This group represents the second largest aquaculture production in Brazil. However, little information is available on the production potential of these fish. The curve makes it possible to detect the growth potential and production performance of different fish. In this regard, the Gompertz model has been used to describe the growth of fish, but there is no information about the growth curve of pacu and the hybrid patinga. The aim of this study was to evaluate the performance and growth curve of pacu (*P. mesopotamicus*) and the patinga hybrid (*P. mesopotamicus* × *P. Brachypomus*) cultivated in a semi-intensive system for 295 days. In the initial phase of the experiment, the pacu and patinga fish weighed 32.6 ± 7.5 g and 24.9 ± 7.1 g and had total lengths of 12.0 ± 0.8 cm and 11.8 ± 1.2 cm, respectively. The Gompertz model was adopted to describe the growth curve. Both genetic groups had similar performance, with final weights and total lengths of 625.9 g and 32.2 cm (pacu) and 727.1 g and 34.4 cm (patinga). The asymptotic value (parameter A), relative growth rate (parameter B), and age at the inflection point (parameter C) of the growth curve of the two species were similar for weight and for the morphometric traits evaluated. The performance and growth curve of the patinga hybrid are similar to those of pacu.

Keywords: age at the inflection point, Gompertz model, hybrid fish, specific growth rate, asymptotic value

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