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**PRELIMINARY STUDY ON THE LENGTH-WEIGHT RELATIONSHIP AND  
CONDITION FACTOR OF *PACHYMELANIA FUSCA* IN FORCADOS RIVER, BURUTU**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Pachymelania fusca* forms part of the periwinkle species reported to have been over exploited in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. This study was carried out to investigate the length-weight relationship and condition factor of *P. fusca* from Forcados River with a view to obtaining information about their relative abundance and well-being for effective management and sustainability. The samples were collected monthly between February 2016 and April, 2016. The length-weight relationship was calculated using the least square regression on log transformed data. The parameter 'a' ranged from 0.02-2.41. The growth exponent (b) ranged from 1.68-3.02 indicating negative allometric and near isometric growth pattern. The mean condition factor ranged from 8.81-13.54 with the highest value recorded in the month of April, 2016. The growth in length was poorly related to the weight. The condition factor data indicated good well-being of the mollusc in Forcados River.

**Keywords:** *Pachymelania fusca*, Length-weight relationship, Condition factor, Forcados River, Burutu

**INTRODUCTION**

The molluscs *Pachymelania fusca* belongs to the family Tateidae and order Littorinimorpha. They inhabit brackish tidal water and mangrove swamps along the West African Coast and are extremely abundant on mud-flats within the reach of the tide in the

lagoons and river estuaries [1]; [2]. The flesh is edible and serves as a rich source of protein, vitamins and minerals [3]; [4]. *P. fusca* can be used as bait for fishing, medicine for cases like endemic goiter, fertilizers, building construction amongst