

## **Trophic Ecology of Sarotherodon Melanotheron Heudelotii and Tilapia Guineensis from the Banc D'Arguin National Park, Mauritania**

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**Abstract :** The diet of *Sarotherodon melanotheron* and *Tilapia guineensis* were investigated in the National Park of Banc d'Arguin (PNBA) from September 2012 to October 2013. A total of 499 individuals ranging in size between 219 and 400 mm total length of *S. melanotheron* (253 males and 246 females), and 280 individuals of *T. guineensis* (229 males and 51 females) ranged between 180 and 424mm total length. We used for studying the feeding habits of both two species the frequency of occurrence method. The coefficient of emptiness was 40.88% for *S. melanotheron* and 38.57% for *T. guineensis*. Both two species were herbivorous and very close feedings. Their diet consists of Seagrass, green, red, blue, and brown algae, diatoms, gastropods, bivalves, Crustaceans, and mud. The Seagrass and green algae were prey preference of these two species. The diet feeding showed that the composition varies slightly depending on the season and size of individuals.

**Keywords :** Cichlidae, trophic ecology, National park, Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania

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