

**GONADAL AND EXTRA GONADAL SPERM RESERVES
OF THE GRASSCUTTER (*THRYONOMYS
SWINDERIANUS TEMMICK*)**

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ABSTRACT

The gonadal and extragonadal sperm reserves of the grasscutter (*Thryonomys swinderianus Temmick*) were evaluated in 26 sexually mature males. Sperm content in the testes, epididymis and vas deferens was $4.43 \pm 0.71 \times 10^5$ and $0.19 \pm 2.38 \times 10^5$ and $0.19 \pm 0.01 \times 10^5$ respectively. The relationship between testes weight (Y) and body weight (X) was linear: $Y = 1.31 + 0.73X$ and significant. Sperm reserves were concluded low; an indication of poor spermatogenic capacity which had earlier been manifested in poor ejaculation despite good response to electro-ejaculation.

Keywords: Sperm reserves, gonadal/extra-gonadal, grasscutter.