

ABSTRACT

Literature relating to the taxonomy and biology of the Pomadasyidae is reviewed and the distribution of sixteen pomadasyid species is described. Many aspects of pomadasyid biology have been studied, including spawning seasons and fecundity, and growth rates have been estimated for three species. The relative abundance of pomadasyids in different areas is considered, and the importance of pomadasyids in the community and ecosystem is discussed.

Sex ratios and size compositions of population samples taken on the Port Royal reefs and in offshore areas are presented, and estimates of mortality rates have been made for populations of some species. The effect of exploitation on pomadasyid populations in Jamaican waters is considered, including the selectivity of Antillean traps and the minimum retention size compared with the size at maturity of several species.