A FIELD STUDY OF TERRITORIAL AND REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR OF THE CUMNER, TAUTOGOLABRUS ADSPERSUS, IN CONCEPTION BAY, NEWFOUNDLAND

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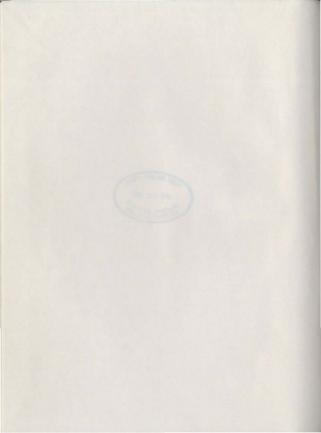
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LA THÈSE A ÉTÉ MICROFILMÉE TELLE QUE NOUS L'AVONS RECUE A FIELD STUDY OF TERRITORIAL AND REPRODUCTIVE
REMAYLOUF OF THE CUNNER,

TRANSPORTED BAY, NEWFOUNDLAND

ONCEPTION BAY, NEWFOUNDLAND

@ Robert Arthur Pottle, B. Sc.

A Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science

Department of Biology
Memorial University of Revioundland
November 1978

St. John's

Newfoundland

Territorial and reproductive behaviour in the cunner, Tautogolabrus adspersus (Walbaum), were observed in Conception Bay, Newfoundland. Cunners are active from May until November and spend the winter months in a state of torpor in the substrate. Males more than 6, years old establish territories in early dune. Territories are defended outside the mid-summer spawning season. Both territorial and nonterritorial males of >150 mm TL acquire nuptial eclouration between emergence from overwintering torpor and the start of the spawning season. Nonterritorial males are vigorously excluded from territories by the resident males and appear to contribute little to the reproductive effort of the population. Territorial females are found in the peripheral areas of some males territories and exhibit aggressive behaviour toward other females. Both territorial and nonterritorial females pair spawn with territorial males. Fish of both sexes are capable of multiple spawns. Group spawning by nonterritorial cunners was not observed. The function of territory defense in T. adspersus is discussed.

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INTRODUCTION

The curser, <u>Trutocolehrus adserrum</u> (Walbeam) is the only dember of the labridse, an essentially tropical set warn temperate family, found in Newfoundland waters. The species ranges from the mouth of Chesapeake may to the Strait of Belle lale and is commo on shallow inshore receives abaltered rock substrates and wrecks, and sear wharves. Such habitate revoke both shalter for protection during necturnal quiescence and over-dutering torpor and a suitable substrate for the benthio organisms on which counters feed.

Although abundant and easily accessible throughout its rongs, T. (

**Reperum has been the subject of few behavioural or ecological tudice,

principally because the species lacks commercial importance. However,

the to its year-round association with a relatively meall home range

(Green, 1975; Olla-et al., 1975) the cumber has potential as an indi
cater of inshore environmental perturbations, as deconstrated by Payme

(1976).

On the nontheaptern coast of Nectonnilland numers are active prisearily from late May until early November, although a few find may be seen a few weeks capiler or later. It was once thought that T. Mappersus migrated to deeper, warmer water for the winter months (Ashroise, 1870; Bigelow and Schroeder, 1953). A physiological study by Emgaard and Irving (1943) indicated that cunners could not remain active at normal inshore winter temperatures and added credence to the theory. However, field observations have shown that cunners overwinter inshore in a state of terpor (Green and Farvell, 1971; bw. 1976). When water temperature. falls below 5 - 6°c, cunners cases feeding and seek shalter in narrow crevices is the substrate. T. Singersus can withstand prolonged exposure to water temperatures below 6°C, as attended by its year-round presence is insolors Newfoundland waters. The period of inactivity varies from y-4 souths off Connecticut (Dev. 1976.) to 5 - 6 months off Newfoundland. Conners energy from their torpid otate when water temperature sgain resofted 5 - 6°C.

T. adoptomas foeds primarily upon mollusce and benthic cruntaceaus, including muncels, limpts, chitons, syside and amphipode, although a variety of other invertebrates, both benthic and planticonic, are consumed (Olla et al., 1975; Shumsey and Stickney, 1975; Dev. 1976). Essentially opportunistic feeders, cunners also consume carries and fish offul,

Noturnal quiencence is a general feature of labrid behavioir (Sobson, 1965, 1972; Seinboth, 1973; Soede, 1972). "The cunner is active only during daylight hours and spends the night in shalter on the substrate. At night, cunners are in a quiescent state characterized by a marked reduction of responsiveness to external stimuli (Olla et al., 1975; Dev, 1976). During field studies by Olla et al. (1975) tagged fish became quiescent 5 - 55 min before the end of evening civil twilight and became active 16 - 41 min after the start of morning civil twilight.

On the besis of aquarium observations of a juvenile cumner, Mchilean (1953) suggested that the species sight be territorial. The first field observations of both territorial and reproductive behaviour were reported in a brief note by Wicklund (1970). Group spawns by aggregations of 3 - 15 cunners in the 75 - 125 m TL ranges had been seen off New Jercey in June and July, 1953. Larger fish of 190 - 250 mm TL actively defended territories but did not participate in spawning activity. To date, so further descriptions of cumer territorial and reproductive behaviour have been published.

The processes of territorial cumera in Newfoundand vaters was subpacted following homing experiments conducted in 1973 - 1976, and contirmed during 1975 field studies (Ofeen, impublished data). In contrast to Wicklumd's observations, pair absuming by territorial fish, wasthe only fogm of reproductive behaviour observed.

The objectives of this study were to provide a detailed account of spanning and territory defense in T. adspersus and to determine the function of territorial behaviour in this species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study site

All behavioural data were collected in situ at Broad Cove, Conception Bay, Newfoundland (Lat. 47°55' N, Long. 52°53' V). Although searches for tagged fish covered most of the cove to a depth of 10.m., prisary data collection was confined to a 30 X 40 m area_ranging in depth from 2.5 - 6.5 m (MM V.) (Figure 1).

Bottom topography in the area was representative of the cove in general, consisting of bedrock outcrops interspersed with expanses of large and small boulders. The bottom sloped gradually sement to the outer yage of the study site, a sharp drop from the 4 to the 6.5 m contour. Depth was sufficient to prevent disturbance of finh by snorkelling

observers, yet challow enough to permit recognition of individual fish during daylight under all but extremely turbid conditions. Strong waveassociated bottom turbulence was rare, and occurred only when wave height was 1 m or greater.

More than 10 male <u>T. adspersus</u> defended territories within the area, and an overwintering site was situated 10th 20 m seaward of its outer perimeter.

Data collection

Tenty-four preliminary SUBA and snorked dives were made between Late April and early July; 1977. All dives were made between 1000 and 1700 hrs daily and served to familiarize the observers with both the study site and cummer social behaviour, as well as providing data on the behaviour of cumners between energence from overvintering torpor and the cetablishment of territories. Euring this period, 10 territorial mades

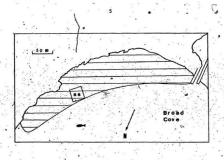


Figure 1. Map of Broad Cove, Conception Bay, showing location of the primary study site (SS) and the area searched for tagged fish (horizontally - line1.area).

in the 210 - 260 m (TL) range, were selected as subjects of an intensive study of territorial and reproductive behaviour. Those were the first territorial individuals recognised, but were not necessarily the first to establish territories. All subjects were tagged (see below) and suppling of territories commenced.

Preliminary observations indicated that a 15 min observation period/ fish would provide sufficient quantitative and qualitative data to characterize activity at any time of day. Quantitative data were obtained during 442 individual snorkel observations, each of 15 min duration, on the 10 tagged males. Pish were observed in random order and at random hours between 0500 and 2100 daily, on 31 arbitrarily selected days between 6 yaly and 23 haguant 1977.

The number of commerc observed during a dive ranged from 4 - 70, and varied with see state, water temperature (range: 9.0 - 16.5°C), and number of observers available. Water temperature was the principal limiting factor of dive duration.

During each observation occurrences of social interactions related to territorial and reproductive behaviour were tallied on slates and coded to designate interactions with contraspecifics, or comspecific males, females, or juveniles. A submersible event recorder console was used in 32 observations to provide data on duration of behavioural parameters. A suffixed code system identified fish involved in interactions with derritorial males, as in the slate recordings. The console was connected to an Esterline Angus Series A event recorder, carried in a moored Zodiac, by a buoyed 30 s cable. Recorder chart speed was 7.6 cm per sin providing a resolution of 2 see per chart graduation.

Qualitative data obtained during observations were summarized at

the conclusion of each dive and sightings of tagged fecales were recorded.

Brief qualitative observations were made on females present during observations of territorial malgie. Periodically, the cove north of the Broad
Cove River was searched to a depth of 10 m and the locations of tagged
fish were recorded.

Additional observations on the behaviour of both males and feedleswere made between Kay and September, 1978. Unless otherwise noted, all quantitative data presented in the figures and tables pertain to the 1977 observations.

Capture and tagging

Fish collected in 1977 for tagging, measurement, and/or nex determination by stripping were captured by SCURA divers in dip nets baited with crushed sea urchins. All territorial makes and 25 females tagged prior to July 17 were tagged and released immediately at capture depths. Lengths of territorial males were estimated visually. All other fish were measured and sexed at the surface before release.

Floy TD 67 'spaghetti' tags were inserted in the dornal muculature below the mid-point of the dornal fin. All tags were numbered and, with the exception of those used on 28 July, hore a distinctive colour code. Making of colour codes by filamentous algas and colonial distones hindered Adentification of several females. If such a fish was seen during a series of observations an attempt to approach the fish and read the tag number was made only after completion of activity recording. (Preliminary dives had shown that the presence of a diver on the substrate could attract large numbers of numbers to a territory, resulting in an abnormally high level of social interaction.)

In 1978, all fish were captured in a baited 1 m diameter hoop net

There were no known tagging mortalities. Tagging did not visibly, affect either swimning shility or social interactions. Fag losses were high; 80% of the territorial males tagged in 1977 had lost their tagge within 5 weeks. As these fish were extremely difficult to recapture, only 5 were retagged. The use of a longer tagging needle in 1978 reduced tag loss among sales to 17%.

Territory boundary determination and mapping

Territory Doundaries were determined by surface observation of territorial cumners. Fluorescent crange floats 2.5 cm in diameter, attached to lead weights by 0.5 m of heavy beine, were used as boundary markers. These were placed at the sites of 'border disputes' between adjacent territorial fish. Disputes were of two types', a static mutual frontal display, and a lateral display which usually incorporated parallel swimning. Frequently, a section or sections of seme territory did not adjoin another. In such cases markers were placed at the outer limits of normal crutching activity. If a territorial fish was completely surrounded by others, its cruising range was restricted to the area within the periaster defined by border disoutces.

The point at which a territorial fish terminated pursuit of an intruder was an unreliable indicator of boundary location. Many chases extended beyond the territory or ended before the flecing fish had reached the perimeter. The distances between nurkers eite determined by direct measurement, and through triangulation, a planar perimeter map of the 1977 territories was drawn. Temporary removal of fish from the population

In an attempt to elicit foreging behaviour and, in the case of territorial fish, to determine the effect of temporary removal from the population on shilly to reoccupy the territory, 3 pairs of tagged cunmers were confined in a holding cage for periods of 5 - 7 days. The holding cage was located at a depth of 3.5 m (MLW) imbore of the primary study site. The cage was constructed of 19 mm meah twine netting on a 30 X 90 X 60 cm high steel frame.

All 6 cummers were captured between 1500 and 1600 hrs and released between 1100 and 1400 hrs. The first 2 pairs, each composed of a territorial male and territorial femple, were captured on 25 and 31 July and released after 5 and 7 days respectively. A nonterritorial male and female were caged from 7 - 14 August.

A diver opened a row door in the holding cage to allow the occupants to escape. If a fight falled, to leave within 2 - 3 min the cage was tipped to direct the occupant to the exit. Each subject was followed for at least 30 min after release or unfil lost to sight. Observers recorded the course followed by the fish, and time and locations of social interactions.

Plankton tows

Hime surface tows for Sathyoplantton were made during the 1977 spaceing meason. Each tow covered a marked 120 m course at a speed of 3 knots, over a depth range of 1 - 10 m, with a 120 mm diameter fine meah met. A 240 mm diameter net was used for 9 tows during July and August, 1978.

Quantitative data analysis

Standard SPSS (Nie et al., 1975) programs for correlation and

simple bivariate regression were used to test for relationships between behavioural parameters. And independent variable (week, time of day, tidal phase, water temperature). $G_{\hat{\Pi}}$ tests (Sokal and Rohlf, 1969) were used to test for correlations of $\underline{\mathbf{c}}_{\hat{\Pi}}$ adoperation reproductive behaviour with tidal phase, due to the low recorded frequencies of courtainly approaches and spawns relative to total number of observations made. $G_{\hat{\Pi}}$ tests were also used to analyze variation in frequency of other infrequently observed behaviour (daylight quiescenter, foreging behaviour, absence from territory) with time of day and/or between subjects.

Two-way Model II anovas without replication (Sokal and Robif, 1969) were used to analyze variation in frequency of courtship approaches and spamms with time of day and between subjects. Dataver obtained by repeated observations of 10 territorial males and for test purposes it was assumed that there was no interaction between time and these analyticular.

RESULTS

General observations and behavioural parameters

A. Sex ratio and population structure

The Broad Cove cunner population is composed of juveniles, and adult territorial and nonterritorial fish of both secos. Cunners with juvenile colouration are relatively accarce and are usually found in close proxisty to chalter, particularly growths of <u>Agarum cribronum</u>, the only common sublittoral macrophyte in the cove.

Territorial males are larger than the majority of females and non-territorial males. The everage TL of 14 territorial males captured in 1978 was 239 mm (range: 210 - 262 mm) as opposed to a mean TL of 207 mm (range: 165 - 260 mm, n = 28) for both territorial and nonterritorial fish taken in 1987, and a mean TL of 212 mm (range: 120 - 255 mm, n = 52) for all males captured An 1978. There was no distinction in size between territorial and nonterritorial females of > 170 mm TL, the minumum recorded length for territorial cumners. The mean total lengths of females captured in 1977 and 1978 were 214 mm (gange: 160 - 220 mm, n = 55) and 194 mm (range: 155 - 270 mm, n = 46) respectively. The relative numbers of territorial and nonterritorial fish in the population are majore.

Age - length data for hread Cove cumners (Naidu, 1965) indicate that the majority of territorial males are at least 7 years old, whereas the smallest territorial females are ~4 years of age. The mean age of 11 territorial males speared in 1978 was 9.2 years (range; 7 - 12 / years) (D. Martin, personal communication).

Maidu (1966) reported a 1:2.8 male to female ratio for his Broad

Core cample collected in July or August by hook and line, at a wherf in the outflow of the Broad Core River. On 16 August 1977, 4 males and 8 females were caught at the same location. Tet a 1st eax ratio was obtained for 57 fish collected > 250 m from the wharf on 17 and 20 August. A sample of 70 cummers captured in the same location on 22 August and 1 Soptember 1978 yielded a 1.3:1 male to female ratio. This did not differ significantly from an expected ratio of 1st.

Although males forage almost exclusively within their territories during the spawning sesson, females and nonterritorial males can be attracted to bait in large numbers. Fev. if any, territorial males are located in the brackish water near the wharf. If Majdu's collection was made during the spawning season, these factors bould account for the observed preponderance of females. Majdu's age data indicates that the majority of fish in his sample were females and nonterritorial males. The oldest male captured was 7 years old and 97. % were < 6 years of age.

B. Sexual dishronatism

The sex of immeture cunners, and of sexually nature figh of <100 mm II cannot be determined by external examination. Young I. mappersum are a bright orange-copper colour, with a prominent black spot at the function of the spinous and soft portions of the dorsal fin. Although both sexes may reach sexual maturity at 80 mm IL, juvenile colouration can be retained to 100 mm IL or more (Wohnness, 1925), with the dorsal spot becoming less prominent and an associated overall dulling and darkening of the body.

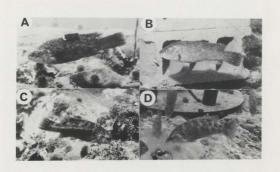
Upon emergence from overwintering torpor, cumners of both sexes > 150 nm TL were predominantly dull medium brown with a light cast to the belly. Although there were exceptions, most females had less blue belly and head colouration than males. A few fish of both sexes in the 200 -250 = IL range were red-orange. The colouration of the majority corresponded to Johansen's (1925) brown phase.

During the 4 - 5 week period before speaking commenced both territorial and nonterritorial sales gradually acquired Johansen's blue phase colouration. The blue white belly colouration became more videspread, with associated paling of the lower flanks. In some, but not all cases the lower half of the flanks developed a cilyery sheen. The head was preciainantly bright light blue, especially in the opercular and circum-orbital regions (Figure 2A'). The dorsal surface darkened to deep blue or purple. Potts (1974) cites a similar increase of blue colouration in spanning sale Cremilabrus selops.

There was no change of female colouration in association with reproductive behaviour. The majority were brown phase (Figure 2B), many with very faint traces of 6 - 7 pale vertical bends, most distinct above the lateral line. Rips females were easily recognized by their robustness.

A few strongly handed fish and individuals with pale lateral lines (Figure 20) were seen throughout the study (i.e. May - Novepher). Noot were assumed to be female due to a lack of blue colouration, although it is possible that some makes do not develop full maytial colours. Figure 20 shows a cummer with distinct hands on the upper flank and caudal peduncle. Only one of 33 observed spamms involved a distinctly banded female; none of the spamning makes were banded.

The banded phase in its full expression is analogous to that described by Dev. (1976) after noctural observations of quiescent cumners, but is probably not an example of disruptive colouration. Banded find were extremely commplicates in mid-water aggregations and presumable more vulFigure 2. Fatterms of colouration exhibited by shult Tautopolabrus adparamin in Newfoundland waters: A) had approximately one useds fatter the spanning featons; B) brown place female; O) female with light brown lateral line and sortling on the head and upper flanks; D) female with distinct pale bands on the upper flanks and/caudal peduncle. (Photographs B and D courteey of Nr. H. Jacobos, 7)



nerable to predation.

The change from normal to banded phase is more probably associated with motivational state than with background. Resoval of fish from water in both the field and laboratory could induce a pattern change in < 60 sec. No pattern change was observed in fish captured and released underwater. One of a pair of territorial selles involved in an unusually long and intense agonistic interaction exhibited banded colouration. Potts (1974) reported a similar pattern change associated with both fright situations (i.e. capture by treat) and prolonged agonistic encounters between territorial males in G. mologs. Unlike the corioving wrassa, T. Adapterus does not loss its nuptial colours when a stress induced pattern change occurs. The banded cumers bew (1976) found in the open at night may have been atreased due to a lack of chelter or by displacement from shelter by another fish.

C: Feeding behaviour

Although cunners feed both benthically and in the water column, territorial males were primarily botton foragers during the spanning season. Loose aggregations of females and nonterritorial males were frequently seem feeding on plankton in mid-water in the manner described by Olla et al. (1975). Females foraged on the substrate either singly or in groups of 2 - 6 individuals.

Botton foreging ounsers moved clowly over the substrate, acaming it with pronounced eye sovements. If prey was sighted the fish pitched forward at a sharp angle (50 - 90°) with the south just above botton. In this position the fish is able to inspect potential prey with both eyes, possibly obtaining a more accurate fix on its location. The protrustible lips and strong teeth were used to remove prey from the substrate.

Large food items were torn apart by strong lateral movements of the head and entire body.

Field observations indicate that Ophiopholis sculents, the datay brittle star, is the principal benthic prey in Broad Cove. The territorial males studied in 1977 consumed 1 - 3 brittle stars in 27,5% of the observations in which foreign occurred.

The digestive tracts of two females collected for gonad examination contained 1 Norein gp., 4 Tonicella putta, 1 Notitus culia, 2 unidenticided fiels exclose, >50 primary spines and interambulacral plate fregments of Strong-docentrotum droebbrachiennia, 1 intact are and large numbers of calcarsous skeletal components of G. sculents. Stomach content analysis of ~400 commerc collected in Portugal Cové, Conception Bay, between May and September 1978, is in progress (D. Narthi, personal communication). A sample of territorial males, speared in both Portugal and Broad Coves is also under examination to test for dietary differences between these fich and the general population.

Capelin, <u>Mallotus</u> <u>villosus</u>, appeared to be a major food source for cumners during late June and early July, 1977. Bosons of capelin which died during the spanning runs were streen over the substrate for 2 - 3 weeks. In contrast, very few capelin appeared in the cove during 1978, fewer than air dead fish being seen in the study area.

Prior to the apacing season males could be dured from their territories with bait, although this became progressively more difficult with time. The 1972 sample males were rarely observed feeding outside of their territories during the spanning season. Nale 22 left his territory and took part of a capelin from a nearby group of females, but returned before feeding. Nales occasionally seized brittle stare from females foraging within their territories. Two fish were observed to turn over <u>Asterias</u> vulgarie, and they appeared to inject an object from the subspirate beneath the starfish. After the spawning season males readily left their territories if bait was presented, or joined aggregations attracted by SCHM divers. Territorial makes fed or foraged in 10.9% of the 1977 observations. Significantly more foraging was observed before 1300 than after (Table 1).

Mid-water aggregations of nonterritorial males and females were attracted to beit from beyond visual range. On several occasions groups arrived an maces when beit was presented, or when lobsters attacked and devoured crabs. The main group was usually preceeded by a few solitary fish. Larger groups may be attracted initially by the movement of fish on their fringes toward food which the majority have not detected.

D. Location of nonterritorial fish

Noterritorial cummers were nost abundant in mid-enter in the case locations as the aggregations formed after emergence from overwintering torpor. Loose aggregations of 10 - 30 finh were situated 5 - 10 m seaward of the study site on most days and appeared to reach maximum size in the early afternoon. Intrusions by females into makes' territories were most frequent in late afternoon during the spanning season. At such times the mid-enter groups were often reduced in size or absent.

Although aggregations included fish of both sexes, females usually outnumbered males by a ratio of at least 3:1. The male cunners in these groups were not observed to court females.

An attempt to observe the day to day behaviour of nonterritorial males provided little data. In late June and early July, 1978, 9 males of <230 mm Ti ($\overline{x} = 205$ mm, range: 182 - 222 mm Ti) and a larger number of <230 mm Ti ($\overline{x} = 205$ mm, range: 182 - 222 mm Ti) and a larger number <230 mm Ti ($\overline{x} = 205$ mm, range: 182 - 222 mm Ti) and a larger number <230 mm Ti ($\overline{x} = 205$ mm, range: 182 - 222 mm Ti) and a larger number <230 mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 205$ mm, range: $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and a larger number <230 mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 205$ mm, range: $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and a larger number <230 mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 205$ mm, range: $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and a larger number <230 mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 205$ mm, range: $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and a larger number <230 mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 205$ mm, range: $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and a larger number <230 mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 205$ mm, range: $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and a larger number <230 mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 205$ mm, range: $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and a larger number <230 mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 205$ mm, range: $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 205$ mm, range: $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti) and $\sqrt{x} = 222$ mm Ti ($\sqrt{x} =$

Table 1. Variation in frequency of foraging behaviour by territorial male 7. adspersum with time of day.

Time of Day	Foraging d	during Obser	vation
0600 - 1300	. 35	137	·
1300 - 2100	16	254	
		11. 4 14	

Foraging behaviour is not independent of time of day (p<0.005).

ber of females were captured by hoop net. As all of the males were collected within the territories of previously tagged fish and were smaller than the average territorial sale, they were assumed to be nonterritorial. All were taxed and released.

Subsequent observation showed one fish (215 km II.) was territorial. Only three of the others were resignted. One sale was seen in a mid-water aggregation on 17 July. Two weeks later, both this fish and another were observed in the same location, again in a group feeding on zooplankton. A third nonterritorial sale was seen in an aggregation attracted to bait on 7 August.

E. Behavioural parameters

During field observations, occurrences of nine distinct actions related to territory defence and reproductive behaviour were recorded. Postures and movements associated with reproductive behaviour (courtehip approach, circling, span) are described on pages 53 - 55. Actions associated with territorial behaviour are described below:

Approach

This action consists of a forward sovesent by one fish toward another on an interception course. A slow approach is executed in the labriform mode of propulation; a medium approach in a combined labriform and caractiform mode; and a rapid approach in the carengiform mode alone. Dorsal and smal fine are adducted or partly erect.

Chase

The chase action is a high speed movement toward another fish moving rapidly away from the subject. Movement of both fish is in caramations mode with quick, low amplitude caudal beats. Pectoral and pelvic fins are adducted and the caudal fin is apread. Other median fins may be adducted or partly erect.

Lateral display and parallel swimming

The lateral display is an action whereby a fish swimming in the labriform mode presents a flank to another fish at a distance of 25 - 75 cm. Median and pelvic fine are usually stducted. Parallel swimming accompanies most interactions in which both participants exhibit lateral displays simultaneously. The fish follow parallel courses, just above the substrate, for distances up to 3 m, with intermittent halts, course reversals, or shifts from labriform to low speed carangiform locomotion. Prection of median fine occurs only during unusually long interactions which involve other forms of acoustic behaviour.

Frontal display

The frontal display is a posture in which a fish faces an opponent at a distance of 4-30 cm. The body is straight and oriented at 180° to the longitudinal axis of the opponent. Median fins are adducted.

Gaping is a frequent component of the display. Opercular flaring has been reported as an occasional component (J. M. Green, personal communication) but was not observed during the study. Movement associated with the posture is performed entirely by the pectonal fins and consists of short, low amplitude becomer and forward oscillations or allow movement toward the opponent.

Gape :

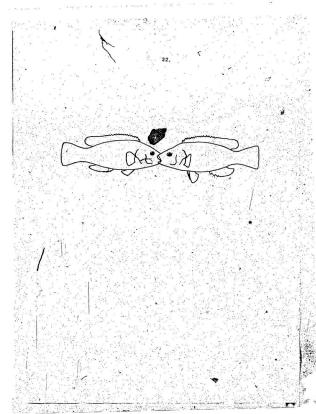
The gape is a frequent component of the spean and frontal display and an occasional component of the courtains approach. The action consists of a marked distension of the jean and protrusion of the lips, which exposes the prominent, conical teeth and white liming of the buccal carity. Bite

The bite is an action in which a fish closes its jaws on part of another, with or without infliction of visible tissue damage.

Helee

A melee consists of a number of actions, both postures and movement, which follow a predictable pattern. It is initiated by the slow labriform approach of one gaping and frontal displaying fish to another, or by mutual forward movement, which results in the juxtaposition of heads as in Figure 3. One fish makes a sharp lateral head movement which terminates with a strike or bits against the opponent's jews. The opponent responds almost simultaneously with the same novement. In extreme cases both fish lock jaws for >1 sec. In a quick series of movements each fish circles one or more better the contract of movements and exchanges one or more butter. A selec each when the participants turn away from each other or assume frontal display postures.

The mean durations of the actions described above, with the exception of meles, are presented in Table 2.



reproduction in T. adspersus.

Behaviour	Mean Duration (sec)	Range	S.D.	N
Approach	2.9	1 - 20	2.6	380
Chases	2.4	1 - 8	1.5	96
Lateral display	3-5	1 - 10	2.0	27
Prontal display	8.3	4 - 15	4.8	4
Gape	8.3	4 - 15	4.8	4
Courtship approach	3-2	1 - 10	1.8	72
	**		1	T.

A. Establishment of territories and duration of territorial behaviour

Active cumners were first observed in early Way, 1977 and in mid-May, 1768 when water temperature reached 5 - 6°C. The fish appeared aluggish and, although attracted to bait, did not feed. No cumners were seen on days when water temperature was <5°C. In late May, 1977, large nonpolarized aggregations were located near two known overwintering sites. Observations were concentrated on a group of cumners located over a 10 m wide strip of loose rock cubstrate between the drop-off at the outer edge of the primary study area and the mearest overwintering site.

Initially the aggregation comprised ~ 40 fish of either sex. all >120 mm TL. The fish were either stationary or moved closely over the substrate at heights of 0 - 3 s. The aggregation reached a maximum size of 60 - 70 fish on 31 May 1977. A maximum size of ~ 100 cunners was attained by the same date in 1978. Chance and bites were observed within the aggregation but were not associated with territory defense as the fish involved either remained within or returned to the group immediately after the intersections.

By early June, 1977 several colitary fish were located 10 - 30 m inshore of the main aggregation, and polarized groups of 2 - 3 fish were cheering awarming throughout the inshore area. During the first week of June aggregation size decreased to 20 - 30 fish and chance within the group were more frequent. The numbers of solitary cunners and small groups inshore continued to increase. By 8 June frontal displays, laterall displays, and chases had been observed and it was glear that many solitary cunners were territorial. As quantitative data were not collected during

preliminary observations, the frequency of agonistic interactions between
adjacent territorial males cannot be compared with data obtained during
the months of July and August.

At least 6 of the 10 males observed in 1977 had established territories by 7 June, and the others had been tagged or identified by midmonth. The blue colouration of male, cumers was pronounced by 10 June and development of light flank colouration had begun by 21 June.

A possible attempt to establish a new territory was observed in July and August, 1977. A male cunner of approximately 220 mm 7L was seen at the intersection of territorios 7, 21, and 25 (Figure 4, p29) on 11 July. Approaches and lateral displays by adjacent territorial males failed to displace the intruder immediately. However, an hour later it was absent. This fish, or one of sigilar site, was seen in the same location on 13 and 16 - 21 July. It has returned again by 25 July and remained on the boundary between the territories until at least 25 August.

Throughout this period the sale was involved in agonistic intersections with all 3 sajacent territorial males, and its agreements where restricted to an area of 1 - 2 m² of bare believed. Between interactions this cumner seved allowly back and fouth over or rested upon the substrate. It was not observed to span and made only 2 recorded courtains approaches to females. This male was not seen in 1976.

Several male cummers tagged in 1477 reoccupied thair old territories in 1978. Rale 23 had returned by 30 May. No fish were seen between 30. May and 7 June, due to a trop in water temperature. On 7 June Male 23 was again on his territory and Male 11 was seen in the large aggregation to assward. On the following day Males 11 and 26 were seen in their 1977 territories. Nale 26 had lost its tax but was identified by a split

caudal fin. Note 7, identified by a tag scar and a white spot on the right caudal patuncle, had reoccupied his territory by mid-Tune. All other territories mapped in 1977 were occupied in 1978. However, the resident sales could not be positively identified due to tag losses and lack of distinguishing physical characteristics. Four territorial males identified in 1977 but not included in the sample group defended the same territories in 1978. Three of these fish were tagged and the fourth had a distinctive white patch between the eyes.

Males observed in 1927 continues to show territorial behaviour at least until late September, although internittently seen off their territories with feeding aggregations following the spawning season. Five territories were still occupied on 5 October. Water temperature was 6.8°C. A few (4-6) fish were seem moving among the large boulders at the overwintering site closest to shore. Many nore were found in crevices in the substrate. Approximately 20 cumners emerged from shelter when bait was presented but showed little inclination to feed. All fish moved in a aluggish manner.

On a daily basis, territorial sales remained on their territories from O600 or earlier until dusk, between 2000 and 200 hrs. Attests to follow territorial males to their nocturnal shelters were unsuccessful. The fish were quickly lost to sight under low light conditions, even with the assistance of underwater lights. Previous observations (Green, unpublished data) had shown that some males remained on their territories at night, although in a state of nocturnal quiescence.

Males left their territories for periods of 0.5 - > 15.0 min in 3.6% of the 442 observations made in 1977. In 9 of 16 cases the fish even toward the searest overwintering site and returned within 1 - 9 min. The cause of these brief absences is not known. On two additional occaminon males joined feeding aggregations on the substrate 8 - 10 m from their territories. There was significant between fish variation in frequency of absence from the territory (Table 3). Nale 21's absences accounted for 56.3% of the total number observed. The territory occupied by this fish was of medium size (32,3 a²) with a mubetrate consisting primarily of exposed bedrock.

B. The nature of the territory

Territories in Broad Cove were located at depths of 0.7 - 13.0 m (NEW). The shallowest were within 5 s of shore, subject to strong turbulence during heavy seas, and probably untenable under such conditions. The deepest territories were found hear the outer limits of the bedrock and boulder strews subgrate. Below 13.0 m a level plain of sand extends seaward. T. adaptorum may establish deeper territories in areas with smattable substrate, as they have been caught at depths up to 130 m (Lein and Scott, 7966).

The horizontal surface areas of 10 territor he measured in 1977 ranged from 16.1 - 7h.5 m² ($\overline{X} = 44.7$ m²) (Figure 4). The seam area of 4 territories measured during an earlier study was 10.6 m² (Green, unpublished). These were located at depths of 6 - 10 s oh a substrate of loose rock rubble. There appeared to be no relationship between fish size and area of the territory occupied as some large males occupied small territories. Aggressive behaviour toward intruders, measured by the parameter Chase, was not correlated with territory size (r = 0.03, at = 9, p > 0.90) (Table 4 A). It was expected that frequency of againstic intraractions with adjacent territorial fish vould be more closely related to territory size than ascressive behaviour toward transient intruders.

male T. adspersus.

Piéh	Charact Cun	m Territor
<u> </u>	Yes	No No
7	0	44
8	0	45
. 11	0	44
17	4	44
19	3	43
21	9	35
22	1	42
23	0	. 44
25	0	43
26	2	41
Acres 1		

There is significant between fish variation in frequency of absence from territory (p <0.005).

Figure 4. Flanar perimeter map of territories defended by the 10 male \underline{T} , appears observed during the 1977 field study. Numbers within the territory boundaries represent the tag number of the resident male and the area of the territory in m^2 .

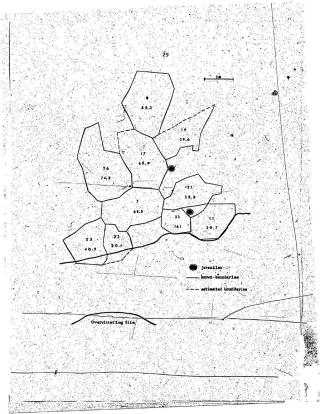


Table 4. Correlations of total number of chases (A), lateral displays (B), and frontal displays (C) performed by territorial male <u>f</u>. <u>adapterous</u> with area of territory defended.

A	Fish	Chases	Area	of Terri	tory
	. 7	191		68.8	
	8	135		55,3)
	17	146		69.9)
	19	97		39.6	(
	22 23	123	S	32.3 20.4 16.1	
	25	135		40.9	
. :	26	115		74.3	
	r = -0.03	t = -0.09			

No significant correlation between area of territory defended and number of chases performed ($p \neq 0.90$).

	Fish	1	1	Latera	1 Dis	plays	 Ares	of Ter	ritory
	.7		. ?		28 .		 ,	68.8	
2	8			1	-19			55-3	
	11				32			55-3 29-7	
	17	-			33			69.9	
	19		6		20			39.6	
	17 19 21 22 23 25 26				20 41	-		39.6 32.3 20:4 16.1	
	22		-		23		 	20:4	
4	23			4	265			16.1	
	25		. '		35 .			- 40.9	
	26				60 :-			74.3	

No bignificant correlation between area of territory defended and number of lateral displays performed (p>0.20).

Table 4

		Fish	Frontal Displays	Area of Territory
•		FIDE .	Trontal Displays	Med of Jellitoly
		7	. 10	68.8
		8	5.	55.3
		11		55.3
	-	17		69.9
		19:	2	39.6
	-		. 12	32.3
		21	. 10	20.4
		. 23	7	16.1
		. 25	6	40.9
	.:/	26 0	. 11	
•	: 1			
		r = - 0.0	05 t = - 0.01	

No significant correlation between area of territory defended and number of frontal displays performed (p>0.90) However, performance of neither lateral (r = 40.41, df = 9, p > 0.20) nor frontal (r = 40.005, df = 9, p > 0.90) displays was correlated with territory size (Table 4 B, C).

Territory boundaries corresponded to prominent topographic features such as bedrock ridges, edges of drop-offs, and large boulders. Nost of these features were of sufficient height to visually isolate adjacent males, as cunners tend to remain close to the substrate. On relatively level expanses of substrate, territory boundaries extended from one small but preminent rock or outcrop to another. Border confrontations occurred almost exclusively on level ground, possible due to more frequent visual contact between territorial males.

The majority of territories contained a large boulder or bedrock outcrop near which the resident cummer was found when not patrolling or foreging. When disturbed by divers, cummers often utilized these features as chalter. Deep crevices may have substituted as a source of shelter in two other territories.

Territory boundaries appeared to be stable on a seasonal basis. However, the death of Male 17 in late September, 1977 resulted in size increases of at least two adjacent territories in the following spring (Male 17 had been speared by another diver). The central portion of Territory 17 appeared to have been occupied by another male. Territory 25 had decreased in size in 1978, while the boundaries of Territories, 11 and 25 were unchanged.

C. Interactions with conspecific intruders

Pollowing the establishment of territories in early May, intruders of either sex were chased. However, during the July to August spawning season territorial males were more likely to court than chase female intruders. Territories were actively patrolled, usually in an apparently rendom fashion, although some fish followed a predictable route when moving from one part of a territory to another. Responses to female cunners were variable. Although most were courted or chased others were 'ignored.' Included in the latter group were the territorial females present in several of the males' territories. These fish were chased, and courted, but less frequently thin were transient females. The behaviour of territorial females and their interactions with males are described balow (5 %2 - 43).

Nonterritorial makes were always driven from territories by the recident makes and did not exhibit agonistic behaviour toward them. On two occasions nonterritorial makes which accidentally came upon a territorial make from behind turned and filed, although the layter apparently failed to see the intruders. Territorial makes may be recognized by conspectfice by their large size and constant presence in a particular location on the substrate.

If bait was used to attract large numbers of intruders, including nonterritorial males, territorial fish tended to chase fish on the periphery of the feeding aggregation as well as late arrivals and departing individuals, and did not feed.

Interactions between adjacent territorial males were almost exclunively 'boundary disputes' in which lateral and frontal displays were performed. Males rarely intruded into other territories, and did so usually while cheeting an intruder from their own. An intrusion by a territorial male, if detected, elicited an immediate approach by the resident fish. Unless the intruder was deep within the territory further interaction was unlikely. If the fish was also to leave the territory and was chased by the resident, a border dispute often followed. More rarely, the males engaged in a series of short reciprocal chases across the boundary.

Lateral displays and parallel assiming were initiated most frequently by one territorial males approach to another near their common boundary. Long bouts of parallel assiming were succeeded by or intersperied with frontal displays. More farely, frontal displays were followed by bites and sclose.

Sequence diagrams of responses by territorial male <u>T. adspersus</u> to intruding females and nonterritorial males, and to intruding or nearby territorial males are presented in Figure 5.

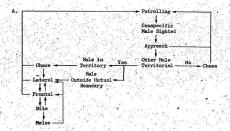
D. Interactions with juveniles

Pewer than 20 juvenile cubners were seen in the study area. Nearly all were located in the shallowest part of the site, where Agarum cribrosum was most abundant. The orange colouration of juveniles closely matches that of A. cribrosum. Johansen (1925) stated juveniles were usually
the same colour as the predominant algal species in the habitat, and
could occur in green, brown, or orange phases. Juveniles generally repaained within 1 - 2 m of an algal growth or narrow crevice and took cholter in one or the other when threatened by divers or other cumners.

Territorial malos did not consistently pursue juveniles, although the latter were almost always present above the substrate, apparently feeding on plankton. Males often passed close to juveniles without aggresive behaviour, the smaller fish either moving a short distance away or showing no reaction to the shull's presence. Several chases appeared to

The term juvenile, as used here, refers to colouration only; not to sexual maturity. Juvenile colouration is generally restricted to fish of _<100 mt IL.

Figure 5. Sequence diagrams of interactions between territorial male T. adapterous and male (A) and female (B) conspectfice.



		olling -		
	Female	Sighted		
V	Арр	roach	1100	
Lateral -	7	25 77 36.5	9 m 1 1 10	
Charge -	Yes Fem	torial No	Chase	
Court			1	1
Court -	21 2 2 3 2 5 2	A Company of the Company	- Court	

be initiated by the sudden flight of a juvenile from a slowly approaching

When chased, juveniles which falled to reach shelter immediately utilized their small size and greater manocuverability to elude pureuit. Chases were restricted to a small area and, if long (i.e. > 3 sec), followed extremely convoluted paths, due to frequent horizontal and vertical turns by the smaller fish. Chases ended when the small male ceased pursuit, often still within his territory or, more frequently, when the juvenile reached shelter. On three occasions, males made prolonged attempts (max 5 min) to reach juveniles in crevices or entered algal clumps used as shelter, only rarely forcing the smaller fish into the open. Sudden dashes at plants used as whelter occurred when juveniles were not visible to the observer.

Social interactions between females or nonterritorial males and juveniles were not observed. Several chapses and a frontal display involving only juveniles were recorded. The principal areas occupied by juveniles (Figure 4, p.29) were either part of or immediately adjacent to the territories of Males 11, 17, 21, and 23. Consequently, these gales initiately 87% (1453) of the agonistic interactions with young fish recorded in 1977.

E Interactions with contraspecific intruders

Territorial males were the only cunners observed in interactions with contraspectific ichyofauna. Males exhibited agoniatic behaviour toward <u>Pholic gunnellum</u> (n = 16), <u>Pseudopleuronectes</u> <u>asericanus</u> (n = 4), <u>Gadon porhum</u> (n = 1), and <u>Hallotus Villosus</u> (n = 1) (n = number of chases recorded). Two winter flounder were bitten as they were driven from a territory. Although quantitative data are lacking, observations.

suggest Pholis gunnellus is the most abundant contraspecific in the area.

Male T. adapterous made 15 approaches to contraspecific intruders without subsequent contact, pureuit, or display. A large Annuilla rostrata, two P. americanus, and a Macroscarces americanus were followed during transits of territories. A Novocophalus octodecempinous, two P. americanus, and two P. gumpellus, all initially resting on the substrate, alonly even off when approached. Several approaches to flounders and sculpins, and one each to a cod and gumnel elicited no response. In these cases the cunner showed no further reaction to the intruders' presence.

Reactions of territorial T. addpersum to contraspecific intruders other than P. gunnellum were inconsistant. Though intrusions by flownder and various cottide were frequent, cunners rarely exhibited agonistic behaviour toward thes. Rock gunnels were usually chased at high speed but never caught. Gunnels always attempted to reach shelter in the substrate or in Agarum cribrosum. Two gunnels were dislodged from their first shelters and chased again, one for 4 m beyond the territory.

Pholic gunnellum is probably not a proy species of the cumner. Both cumners and gunnels have been observed feeding together on crushed sea wichins. In addition, a gunnel which id not flee when approached by a major cunner was repeatedly mudged along the substrate for > 2 m until pashed from the territory.

There was no evidence of serial territoriality with respect to contraspecifice, as observed in <u>Emponeeuntrus planifrons</u> (Posscentridae). (Thresher, 1976a), A single boundary seemed to apply for all intruders, whether comspecifics or contraspecifics.

F. Davlight quiescence

Territorial male \underline{r} , adoption remained is mobile on the substrate for periods of 0.5 - 15.0 min (\overline{x} = 7.0 min, n = 24) in 5.4% of the 1977. Observations. G_H tests (Table 5) aboved significant between fish variation in the occurrence of daylight quiescence.

Quiescent males were normally found in crevices beneath boulders, under rock overhages, or partly concealed by <u>Agarum cribrowns</u>. Only two cunners were seen in exposed positions. One male remained immobile (for > 15 min) in shadow ~ 25 cm from an outcrop of bedrock. Another settled on the substrate and tilted to one side until propped against a rock at an angle-tof ~ 45°. After two minutes it resumed patrol of the territory.

The number of shelters used by quiescent fish ranged from 1 - 4 perterritory. Males occasionally switched from ose shelter to another or made complete circuits of their territories before becoming inactive again. Daylight quiescent was more frequent before 1300 than after (Table 6). The cause or function of this behaviour is not known.

Fish -	Quiescent during	
	Yes	No.
7 /	0.	44
8		40
11	1	43
The state of the s	# 1 5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	100
17.	0	45
1919 - 1910 - 1901 - Area St		A
19	0	46
21	0	35
9 22 0	2	41
	579	
23		43
25	6. 9	
		37
26	0	43 ^k
		4
1 m	A	. 17.7

Between fish variation is significant (p < 0.005)

Table 6. Variation in frequency of daylight quieseence with time of day. Bata for all fish have been combined:

Time of Day	Qui	escent duris	g Observat	ion
		Yes	No	_
0600-1300	1 9 3	14	158	100
1300-2100		10	260	11
.500 2.00	100		200	
A STORY OF THE PARTY OF THE	1 110	date of the		

There is significant variation in frequency of daylight quiescence with time of day (p < 0.05).

Female territorial behaviour

A. Evidence for female tereitoriality

By early August, 1977 it was apparent that one or more cumners with female colouration were almost continually present in some males! territories. In contrast to other brown phase cunners, these did not flee from the territories when approached by the resident makes, and occasionally made rapid dashes at the males! flanks. Such fish generally restricted their movements to a few square meters of a male!s territory and frequently chased other brown phase cumners.

Although one of these cunners was observed to issue twice with the same territorial male, it was suspected that some of the others were either males which had failed to develop spawning colouration or females undergoing protogymous hemsphroditism, a phenosenon unreported in T. adoption but not uncommon in the family Labridae (Robertson and Choet, 1974). However, none of these fish courted others with female colouration.

Evidence that most; it not all, of these cunners were females was obtained in late summer, 1977 and suring the 1978 field observations. By early August of both, years the majority of brown phase fish could not be sexed by stripping. However, opera could be stripped from nearly all blue phase fish two weeks later. The gonade of two territorial brown phase cunners collected in August and September, 1977 appeared identical to spent ovaries. A third, tagged, fish collected on 10 August 1978 in the sense area it had defended in 1977 released 10 - 20 eggs when opeared. Dissection showed that this cunner was a nearly spent female. During the 1978 field observations 3 of 8 tagged, territorial, brown phase cunners were courted by males and two of these subscuently apassed.

B. Nature of the territory

As territorial females are difficult to distinguish, in a casual survey, from other females foraging in, traversing, or being courted in a male's territory, the location and identification of such fish was con-fined to the primary study site. As a result, the depth range over which females establish territories is unknown. A total of 14 territorial females were identified in 1977 and 1978, all at depths of A - 5 m (MEW). In 12 cases a large boulder (width > 75 m) or produment bedrock outcrop was included in the territory. Females generally remained within 1 m of such topographic features, venturing further sway to forage or to drive off intruders. At least five territories contained a crevice to which the female retreated when threatened by a territorial male. All territories were either entirely or partly within that of a male, unually on or adjacent to its border. For reasons cited below, the size of female's territories was difficult to determine with accuracy. The majority speared to over 4 - 6 m².

Territorial females were absent from 5 of the 13 males' territories examined in 1977 and 1978. Two of the males' territories were considerably smaller than the others. The remaining three had level, uniform substrates of bedrock or loose stone, which provided little cover-

C. Interactions with conspecifics

Interactions between territorial females and nonterritorial sales and juveniles were not observed. Territorial males moved freely through those parts of their territories occupied by females. As they did, females often made either a alow approach and performed a brief (<2 sec) lateral display or a repid approach toward the male's flank with an abrupt turn away just before contact. Accompanying or immediately after

the turn, the fish mads 1 - 2 exaggerated movements of the caldal fin, which three the body into a distinct sigmoid curve. In this posture the female's head was criented at an angle of 45 - 50° away from the male's.

Territorial males generally continued on course following a lateral display by a female. However, following a rapid approach and turn away, the male frequently turned toward and began to follow the female. In much cases the female accelerated and continued to move away from the male. Brief chases occansionally followed and distances covered rarely exceeded 5 m. Territorial females either sought shelter in the substrate when chased or retreated until the male ceased pursuit.

The responses of territorial females to male intruders are thought to be related to territory defense, rather than reproductive behaviour. Courtehing never followed these interactions. The behaviours described above may allow territorial males to distinguish between transient non-territorial females and individuals present in the territory on a regular basis. Territorial females were courted and chased less frequently than others. There were no distinctions between the reproductive behaviours of territorial and nonterritorial females. Although two fish speamed twice with the male in whose territory thay resided, mother female left her territory to spawn with a different male in a territory 7 m distant-

Nonterritorial feades usually moved off when approached by a territorial fish. A fast approach by the latter, or failure of the intruder to leave the territory after an initial approach, was followed by a brief chase. Due to the small size of the territories most chasses covered a distance of 2 - 3 m. Territorial females were frequently unable to exclude larger cumners from their territories. When approached, large females gither failed to respond or turned and approached the territorial fish. In such cases the latter always retreated.

Interactions between territorial female cummers were infrequent as few chared cutual boundaries and territoriae were generally several seters apart. With one exception (p 47) agonistic encounters were restricted to brief laterals or short chases when one fish entered another's territory: Dae-to the low frequency of interactions between these females and other territorial fish, the boundaries of their territories were difficult to determine with accuracy and no measurements of territory area were obtained.

D. Duration of territorial behaviour

Complete seasonal data on duration of territorial behaviour is available for one female only. This cumner Female 156, had been tagged in 1973, otherwise its presence on the fringe of the primary study site would have gone unnoticed. First seen in early June 1977, it defended a territory in the same location until early September, and was subsequently observed in midwater aggregations. Female 156 occupied the same territory from 8 June 1978 until speared for gonad examination in August. Five other females had left their territories between 6 and 17 August 1977, from 8 - 27 days after detection. In 1978, 6 females tagged in late June and early July vacated their territories between 24 July and 14 August. Two females were still territorial on 14 August. Duration of territorial behaviour after initial detection ranged from 11 - 42 days.

On a daily basis, females occupied their territories from before 0000 until duck. It is not known whether the fish remain in the territories at night or seek shelter elsewhere. Sightings of tagged females indicated that most remained within 25 m of the tagging sites during the spanning season although some ranged considerably further afterwards. Data suggest that 5 of 24 females tagged at the primary study site in 1977 were territorial (Table 7). These cumners were repeatedly seen in the same locations on the substrate, all within makes' territories. Female 38, tagged in Territory 22 on 16 July, was located 70 m inshore from 22 July to 6 August.

Four females were found 70 - 140 m north of the tagging site during all 10 combined sightings from 28 July to 24 August. Two others were seen 100 m and 158 m south in late August.

In late July, 1977, 24 femiles, many spent or nearly so, were captured at a depth of 8 m, 10 m semirard of the study site. The flish were tagged to provide data on postulated inshare movements during the afternoon. Tags were not colour coded.

In 17 of 19 subsequent aightings between 3 August and 1 September, fish from this group were in midwater aggregations within 10 m of the tagging site. One female was located 100 m to the north and another was seen at the outer edge of the study site, in Territory 25. Another was seen in the same area in early June 1978.

Two females tagged in 1977 were territorial in 1978 but, due to thick growths of algae on the tags, could not be identified. One of these fish occupied the same area defended by Female 37 in 1977. Attempts to capture and identify this female were unsuccessful.

Table 7. Frequency of sightings of tagged female T. adspersus and maximum recorded distances of fish from tagging sites.

<u>Fish</u>	Frequency of	sightings	Time Span (days)	Max. Dist
4 10	. 1		0 30 38	25 20
13 14 16	2 4 12		0 30 38 31 57 72 76	25 20 25
18 35 36 •	12 5 0 19	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	0	25 25
4 10 12 13 14 16 18 35 5 5 37 8 39 40 14 42 3 44 45 50 51 53 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	19 33 16 3		31 73 20 31 73 44 73 40 225 38 0 26 44 38 0	25 & 25 & 25 & 25 & 25 & 25 & 25 & 25 &
41 42 43	. 4 1		44 73 40	140 70 73.
45 46	16 0		38 0	
48 • 49 50	31 4	100	44 38 0	12 13 73 73 90 100
51 53	. 3		75 38	90 10 0

Fish thought to have been territorial on the basis of repeated sightings in the seme location.

Temporary removal of cunners from the population

The first pair of cumers, plated in the holding cage were released on 30 July at 1230, after 5 days of confinement. Courses followed by . each fish are plotted in Figure 6 A.

Male 104 noved ~ 10 m senward but was driven back by males in territories A and C, and chased choreward by Male 111. The fish swam mortheast, parallel to shore and reversed course after encountering mother territorial male. It began to zig-sag, still moving parallel to shore, but turned beaward after passing a large outcrop, and followed a nearly straight course to Territory 7. Wale 104 then turned, passed through Territories 7 and 103 and entered his own, chased over the last 3 m by Male 103.

Once in his territory, Male 104 turned on 103 and engaged in a long (~3 min) agonistic interaction on their mutual border. Frontal and lateral displays were interpressed with meless, bites and jaw-locks. Male 104 engaged in 3 similar but shorter (<1 min) interactions with Males 11 and 0 before a second encounter with 103. Male 104 and Male F performed lateral displays with parallel muimning. Fesales in the territory were counted or chased between interactions with males. Observation ceased at 1320.

Female 53 returned to her territory within 15 min, after passing through a number of makes' territorios without incident. A lengthy interaction with a neighbouring territorial female (68) followed her return. This was the only incident in which females performed frontal displays, gapes, and jas-locks. Both females were engaged in another, or possibly the smalls interaction 30 min later. Kale 104 and Female 53 successfully recompiled their territories.

Male 111 and Female 68 were released on 7 August at 1122. Courses followed are plotted in Figure 6 B. (The holding cage was in the centre of 111's territory.) Female 68 was immediately chased from territory 111 and passed through Territory 01 into 126. She was driven from Territory 126 into 26 and immediately turned toward her own. At 1124, 2 min after release, she was lost to sight due to poor visibility. At 1129

The was relocated in Territory 7. Chased by the resident male, female 68 fled into Territory 105. At 1130 she was again lost to sight, having moved seaward or entered a deep crevice in Territory 25. On August 10, she was seen under a rock overhang in the same location. She did not recounty her territory.

After chaning Female 68, Male 111 engaged Male A in a short Meconistic interaction on their mutual boundary. A long interaction with Male C followed, and included frontal displays, parallel eximing, bites and melecs. The interaction continued for at least 35 min. The opponents were engaged in an almost continuous repetition of parallel swim, trun, phrallel swim, frontal with sape, parallel swim: . . Approximately 20% of the frontal displays were followed by a nelec with bites and jaw-locks. Within 5 min of the start of the interaction, Male B was bitten by Male. 111 and assumed, a strongly bended colouration in <10 sec. An hour and a half after release both fish were gaping and parallel swiming in the same location. However, bites were less frequent. Only one was recorded in 5 minger observation. Male 111 recompled the territory.

Nonterritorial Male 135 and nonterritorial Female. 45 were released on 14 August, 7 days after capture. Courses followed after release are plotted in Figure 6 C. Male 135 swam toward Territory 104, turned, and moved without incident through Territories 26, 7, 105, and 23. He dis-

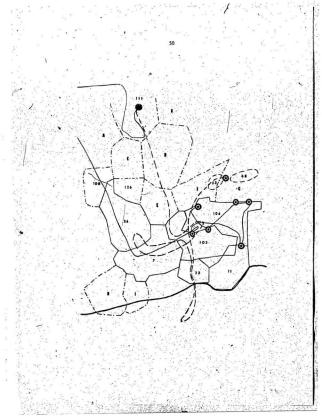
appeared among boulders at the overwintering site at 1455.

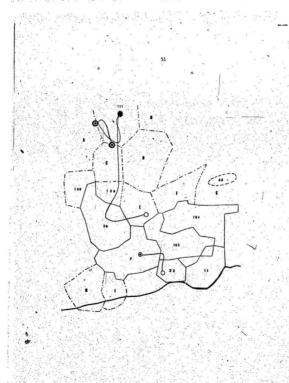
Female 45 entered Territory 126 and spanned with the resident male, 3 min after release. She then swam seaward through Territories 26 and 7, and remained at the base of a large boilder in Territory I for ~ 10 min. At 1450 she was seen moving seaward through Territory 23. At 1455 she was sighted in Territory 7, lost, and located again at the boulder in Territory I. Female A7 was last seen in this location at 1515. (In 1577, she was in Territories H and I in 8 of 20 sightings.)

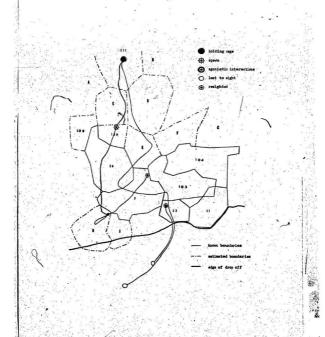
In summary, temporary removal of sales from their territories did not impair their shility to recovery these areas upon release. Female 55 was, also able to recovery her territory. All fish engaged in unusually long and intense interactions with their neighbours immediately after their return. Female 68's failure to return to her territory cannot be explained. She was probably capable of locating it. When lost to sight at 112h, she was within normal visual range of the territory and in the location where she was first captured and tagged.

Although prevented from feeding, at least on benthic organisms, for periods of 5 2 7 days, none of the fish exhibited feeding or foraging behaviour upon release.

While the territorial males were confined, their neighboure gradually emcreached upon those undefended areas adjacent to their own territories. The presence of Male 111, albeit caged, in the centre of his territory failed to discourage intrusions by Males A, B, C, and D. Beither of the vacated areas was occupied by a previously nonterritorial fich or completely partitioned between adjacent territorial males. 'Border disvotes' between encroaching males were not observed. Figure 6. Novements of cumners after release from the holding cage and locations of interactions with conspecifics: A) territorial male 10t and territorial female .3; B) territorial male 111 and territorial female .5; C) nonterritorial male 120 and nonterritorial female .45.







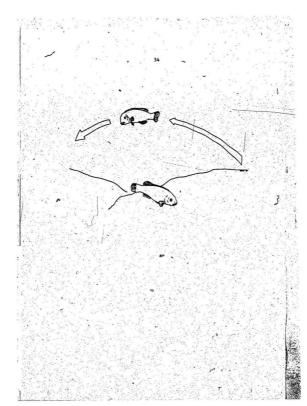
Reproductive behaviour

A. Courtship and spawning behaviour

Reproductive behaviour is initiated by a territorial male's 'courtship approach' (Figure 7) to a female within his territory. In this
display the sale mims toward and to one side of the female, with the
bright blue sedian fine erect, and the head turned toward her at a sharp
angle to the body. The bally is inclined slightly toward the female and
locomotion is in the careagiforn rather than the usual labriform mode,
although rapid besting of the pectorals is a component of the display.
In the vertical place the sale's course describes a shallow arch above
the substrate to a maximum height of 1.5 m. The mean duration of ?2
courtehin approaches measured from activity recorder charts was 3.2 sec
(S.D. = 1.5 sec; range: 1 - 70 sec).

Courtship behaviour was observed on 6 July 1977, 5 days before the first recorded span. Although initially described as occurring in the absence of intruders, it is possible that females immobile on the rocky substrate may have been overlooked. After, the spanning season had begun females were present during all observed courtehip approaches. In 1978 courtehip heaviour was not seen until 14 July, 7 days before the first recorded manuar.

Nonterritorial females usually flee when approached by a courting male, the male often giving chase. It is uncertain whether these chases are attempts to drive the female away or to direct her back into the territory. Chases often end with the female still within its limits. If several females are present an almost continuous series of courtainly approaches and chases can occur. Territorial females usually turn and more alonly away from a male if courted adjacent to the substrate, but Figure 7. Courtship display by territorial male 2. adspersus, the male has approached the nearly stationary feedle from sheed, curving slightly every and then back as he passes, with scilan fine erect and head turned charply toward her.



are more likely to flee for cover when persistently courted in mid-water.

Receptive femmles rest on or mowe alowly over the substrate while

the male makes one or more courtein approaches. If the female does not flee, the male usually begins to circle her at a height of <1 m, either displaying on each side as in a gourtainly approach, displaying triefly while circling, eximing in a complete circle without raising the median fine or head turning; or holding the courtainly approach posture during the estire circuit.

While the male circles, the female may make one or more short, slow forward movements along the substrate. Alternatively, she may either leave the territory; or move several meters while remaining within it. In the latter case, the male may resume courtship, again beginning with a courtship approach. After circling, the male slowly approaches the female from behind and passes over her several times (usually <10) at an angle of 20 - 60° to her longitudinal axis, coming in contact with herdorsal surface and stiffly flexing his head and tail from side to side during some of the passes. During this phase of courtship the female may move forward again in a 'stop - start' fashion. The male then places his belly against her dorsal surface, with his snout just behird her head, and begins to quiver from snout to tail. In some spawns the slow body flexing is repeated. Within 5 - 15 seconds the pair begins to move forward and the male's quivering is transformed into slow, high amplititude. carangiform swimming, succeeded by rapid acceleration of both fish. Approximately 2 m from the starting point both make a sharp upward turn, with the female less than a body length shead. (It is possible that the male nudges the female in the caudal region just before the turn. However, due to the rapidity of the transition from horizontal to nearly

vertical swimming I cannot be certain of this).

The spawning pair rises at high speed at an angle of 60 - 80° to the substrate, with median fine erect, both gaping widely just before and during gamete release. Duration of the vertical run is ~1.5 sec. Spawning runs peaked 1.5 - 2.0 m above the dustrate as both fish flexed sharping runs peaked 1.5 - 2.0 m above the dustrate as both fish flexed sharping into a U-shape with their vents in close proximity. Randall and Randall (1963) have suggested that such flexion at the peak of vertical spawning runs, combined with a sudden expansion of the air bladder, "probably enhances the release of sex products." Here recently, Robertson and Hoffman (1977) and Johannes (1978) have suggested that similar spawning runs in a variety of coral reef species may serve the dual function of releasing genetes far enough from the substrate to minimize reef-based egg predation, while only briefly exposing the spawning pair to predation away from the shelter of the reef.

Immediately after gamete release, the female folds her median fine and descends to the substrate, usually resting for a period ranging from several seconds to minutes, before leaving the territory. The male swins repidly around the descending female in a wide, shallow spiral, again with median fine erect and head turned sharply toward her. The female may be chased for several meters if she swims off immediately after spanning. The patrolling of the territory and sourtehip of females is then resumed. On two occasions, females which have remained in the territory have spanned a second time within 5 simutes.

The duration of a full bout of reproductive behaviour, from courtship approach to spawn, ranges from 3 - 10 min, primarily in relation to the responses of the female. Termination of reproductive behaviour by departure of the female is most common during the approach and circling phase. Once the male is in direct contact with the female premature termination is rare. One female went through the entire courtainy sequence four times before speaming. Each time the pair began the horizontal component of the speaming run, she turned under an overhanging rock face or entered a crevice, emerging after additional courtably displays by the male. Another female swan under a rock as the male began to quiver but did not emerge until he swan off. Courtably can be interrupted on even terminated by the presence of other fight. In one case a female left a territory after the resident male had repeatedly interrupted courtably to chase intruders during both the circling and quivering phases.

An atypical span followed two long chases (~8 sec each) involving a territorial male and an unusually small female (~120 - 130 mm TL). After fleeing (or leading) back and forth over the territory at a height of 1.5 - 2.0 m, the female initiated an upward dash, which ended in an appearantly normal gamete release. Another spans followed a short (<3 sec) mid-water chase of a female which computed a territory on the edge of the male of the female watch coupled a territory on the edge of the male of the female had fied after a single courtainty approach by the male. Similar pair spansa, lacking specialized courtainty displays, have been reported as normal for four appecies of <u>Malichosres</u> (Roede, 1972).

B. Interference by males in pair spawning

Nonterritorial males with nuptial colouration were often seen in midwater, several seters seasond of the drop-off at the outer edge of the primary study site, and were frequently chassed by males occupying the outermost territories. Individuals from this group attempted to join the vertical runs of spanning pairs during 2 of 35 (5.9%) recorded spannsfolly one attempt was successful. The intruder had been chassed repeatedly from the edge of the territory during courtship, but returned each time the male rejoined the female. In the other artempt the intruder was not seen before the spann occurred. It arrived at high speed, moments too late to spann, and immediately fled as the resident male approached. Similar interference by nonterritorial or subordinate males have been observed in Thalassoms bifacciatum (Vanner et al., 1977) and fautoga outtie (Olla et al., 1977) respectively. Territorial male T. subspecies used similar tactics to spann with courting pairs near their territorial boundaries on two occasions. In 1978 a cunner with juvenile colouration attempted to intercept a spanning pair. It reached the peak of the run 29 on behind the larger cunners and made the sharp flexion associated with gamete release at the same point that they had. The 'juvenile' immediately left the territory at high speed, although apparently not, seen by the 'coident male until several socters distant.

Monterpitorial males occasionally tried to court females in a territory while the resident male was courting or chasing other intruders.

All were quickly driven off. Due to poor visibility, the colouration of
intruders approached or chased by territorial males could be determinedin only 2055 of > 5000 recorded interactions (courtain) approaches excluded). Only 5.8% of these interactions involved nonterritorial blue
phase cunners. (All territorial makes in the immediate vicinity of the
10 sample territories were either tagged or could be recognized by size,
colour or location. Hence, there was negligible-centusion between territorial and nonterritorial male intruders.)

- C. Diurnal periodicity of sexual activity
- i) Correlation with time of day

Courtainip approaches were not tallied prior to 19 July 1977 although first recorded 13 days earlier. After this date 88.7% were observed after

1300. Similarly, in 1978, 84.8% of recorded courtship approaches occurred after 1300. Frequency of courtship approach varied significantly with time of day (Table 8). Courtship was most intense between 1400 and 1900 hrs in 1977 and between 1300 and 1800 hrs in 1978 (Figure 8).

The earliest spawn was recorded at 1345; the latest at 2040. Spawning frequency varied with time of day (Table 9) and appeared to reach a peak between 1700, and 1900 (Figure 9 A). However, 1978 data chowed a less defined peak (Figure 9 B).

ii) Correlation with tidal cycle

The tidal cycle was divided into four phases to test for correlations with cunner reproductive behaviour:

Phase 1 - high tide to mid-ebb

Phase 2 - mid-ebb to low tide

Phase 3 - low tide to mid-flood

Phase 4 - mid-flood to high tide

Q₁ tests (Sokal and Bohlf, 1969) were selected for the analyses due to the low numbers of recorded courtship approaches and spams relative to the number of observations made. Data collected in 1976 could not be used as nearly all post-1900 observations were made during tidal phases 3 and 4. Frequency of courtship approaches did not vary significantly with tidal phases (Table 10 A). However, there was significant variation of spamning frequency (Table 10 B). Of the observations in which spams were recorded, 64.5% (20/31) were made between mid-flood and high tide.

Spaining frequency and seasonality

* The ten sample males and an additional tagged territorial male spawned from 1 - 7 times each ($\bar{X} = 3.0$ spawns/fish/season) during the 1977

d Table 8. Two-way amendo

	X.	1
1900-2100	004000#202	2
0 1500-1700 1700-1900	దోబడి దేటందలులు జాకాహించి ఆకోరాల	2.92 0.025
Time of Day 1300-1500	รับกรีทิดนกทอ -	2 A
rt. <u>四</u> 0900-1100 1100-1300	nddw∞o÷ow <i>c</i>	29. Varifftion Time) Time)
haviour is not eignificant. ***********************************	0.6040-000-	Source of Variabilon Solumin (Time) Roy (Fish) Exerc
haviour is Fish	,~ጫቲቲ\$ምሄሄጸ	

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1900-2100	NO-0-00-00	ın .
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		Source of Variation Columns (Time) Rows (Fish)
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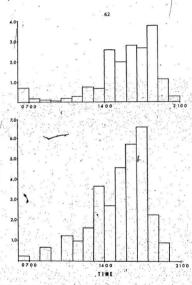


Figure 8. Hourly variation in frequency of courtehip approaches by territorial male <u>T. adopteus</u> in 1977 (A) and 1978 (B). Vertical exes represent sean number of courtehip approaches recorded per observation of

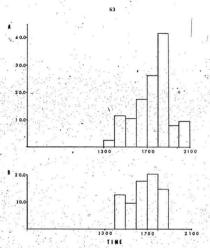


Figure 9. Hourly variation in frequency of spawns by territorial male <u>R. adapterous</u> in 1977 (A) and 1976 (B). Vertical axes represent the percentage of observations in which one or more spawns were recorded.

Table 10. Variation in frequency of <u>T</u>. adaptersus reproductive behaviour with tidal phase (see p.59). Numbers in the 'Yes' columns represent the number of observations per tidal phase in which one or more courtable approaches (A) or spams (B) were recorded. Only observations made after 1300 are are included in B.

۱.	Tida	Phase	Co	urtship Ap	proach Ob	served
	14.	RT	ti iye	Yes Yes	No. 32	
1.		1 27		1	-0	
16	74.1	2		29	- 30	
Mary.		3	P.E.	24	55	3
	100	4 . ,		20	56	
	1			7.4		1

Frequency of courtship approach behaviour is independent of tidal phase (p> 0.10).

Tidal Phase	Spawn Observed
3. 7	Yes No
	1 2.
, 2	3 52
3 1	4 44
	ao , 53
	2 12 1

GH = 14.05 GT+= 5

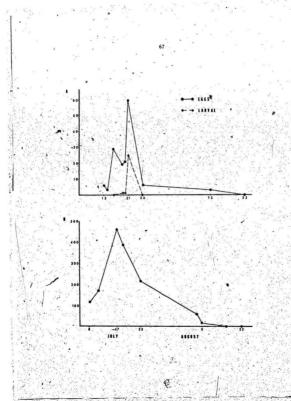
Spawning frequency is not independent of tidal phase (p < 0.005).

cheevations. There was no significant difference between sample fish in either the number of courtehip approaches (Table 8) or space. (Table 9) performed. Both males and females are able to space more than once day of the sesson. Three of the territorial makes spaced twice within 15 min, while a fourth spaced three times in 6 min, twice with the same female. During 1977 a female spaced with the same male on 28 July and 9 August. In 1978 another spaced with a territorial hale on 30 July and 3 August. In both cases the females were territorial within the wrea defended by their spaceming partmer.

The first spawn of the 1977 season was recorded on 11 July, the last on 9 August. No courtship behaviour was observed after 12 August. Nost of 21 females tagged on 28 July were nearly speat, eggs being stripped from them with difficulty. At least 10 speat females were discarded during the tagging operation. Twelve fish collected on 16 August were examined in conjunction with a study on cummer engage (AME) activity. One of 4 males and 7 of 8 females were spent (D. Walton, personal communication). Only 25 of 57 fish captured on 17 and 20 August, and released after external examination, could be sexed by stripping. All of these were males and, with the exception of a tagged territorial fish, were nearly spent. Four of the remaining fish were identified as spent males by colouration. In 1978 the first spams was recorded on 14 July, the last on 14 August.

Surface tow results for 1977 (Figure 10 A) show a peak in the numbers of planktonic eggs and larvae on 21 July, and a sharp decline in numbers by 25 July. Only 3 eggs were collected on 12 August, and neither eggs nor larvae were present in the 23 August sample. Surface tow results for 1978 (Pigure 10 B) again show a strong peak in egg numbur, which occurs on 17 July, followed by a gradual decline until the end of the spawning season in mid-daguast. Only 4 larvae were collected, 3 on 9 August and 1 on 17 August.

Figure 10. Results of plankton tows for <u>T. adoperous</u> eggs and larsas at Broad Cove, Conception Bay, in July and August 1977 (A) and 1978 (B). Vertical axes represent the numbers of eggs and larvas collected per tow. Only four larvas were obtained in 1978.



Quantitative data

A. Correlations between behavioural parameters

The correlation coefficients between the behavioural parameters Approach, chase, lateral, Frental, Courtehip Approach, and Spaws, and their statistical significance are presented in Tuble 11. Sample size (n) for the parameter Courtehip Approach was 299 observations as this behaviour was not recorded during the first 13 days of data collection. Only post-1300 observations (n = 270) were used in computation of correlation coefficients between Spaws and other parameters. Sample size for the remaining parameters was 442 observations. The covariants of each parameter are listed in descending order of significance in Table 12.

- B. Diurnal periodicity of behavioural parameters
- i) Variation with time of day

Abovas indicated that the recorded frequencies of the pursaeters Chane, Frontal, and Lateral did not vary significantly with hour of observation from 0600 - 2100. However, there was significant hourly variation of frequency of Approach, Spans, and Courtehip Approach behaviour (Table 13). Graphs of mean frequency/observation/hour suggested a peak is activity between 1800 and 1900 for all 3 paraseters (Figures & 9, 11). Regressions and correlations of the paraseters with time of day were performed with 2 groups of data; one of pre-1900 observations and the other of post-1800 observations, thus bracketing the period in which the graphed peaks occurred. Approach, Courtehip Approach and Spans were negatively correlated with time after 1800. With the exception of post-1800 Courtehip Approaches, the paraseters varied significantly with hour.

	. ,						
obserticiones and degrees, of freeding we proposed to the lover half of the fable. The significance (p.) of the correlations as presented in the upper half of the table.	Spawn	0.01	0.50	0.40	0.05	0.01	
igni				100			
pe eg	升	0.01		4	2		(89
9	Courtship	10.0	0.01	0.40	8		+0.34 (268)
tab	. গ্ৰ		Ĭ.	,	ζ.		9
the					,5%		_
f of	. 3		0.	-		+0.06 (297)	+0.15 (268)
bal o ta	Frontal	0.0	0.20	0.0	:	8	5
th th						Ŷ.	9
coefficients and degrees of freedom are presented in the lover half of (p.) of the correlations is presented in the upper half of the table.							
H H	뎨	. 0	8	6.	1	(29)	(26
upp	Lateral	0.10	0.20		+9.33 (440)	-0.04 (297)	+0.05 (268)
the	্ৰা				¥		¥
d di			7	.6	6	2	8
en te	ol.	0.0		3	₹	(29	(26
pres	Chase	. 0		(01/1) 10.0	-0.05 (440)	+0.17 (297)	+0.04 (268)
4 9A				1	1	*	. *
Long			6	6	6	6	8
degr	Approach		£	ŧ	₹	(29	8
and o	App		+0.53 (440)	.0.07 (440).	+0.16 (440)	+0.64 (297)	+0.35 (268)
t t	1		1.	7.			
1 8		ach		7	궣	the	
9 A		Approach	Chase	Lateral	Frontal	Courtship	Spewn

Table 12. Covariante of behavioural parameters. Covariante are listed in descending order of r value magnitude. All correlations are positive.

Parametera Coveriants
Approach Courtanip approach, Chase, Spesa, Lateral
Chase Approach, Courtail papproach
Tateral Frontal Lateral, Approach, Spessa
Courtailty approach
Approach, Spessa, Chase

Approach, Courtship approach, Frontal

Table 13. Results of simple bivariate regressions of behavioural parameters on time of day.

		0600-190	o Ti	<u>mė</u>	1800-210	0
<u>Parameters</u>	<u>df</u>	F value	P	<u>at</u>	F value	<u>p</u>
Approach	376	58.65	0.001	79	15.98	0.001
Çhase	376	4.44	0.05	79	0.01	.0.75
Lateral display	376	0.66	0.25	79	0.01	0.75
Frontal display	376	4.64	0.05	79	1.25	0.25
Courtship approach	265	26.51	0.001	1 35	0.47	0.50
		1300-190	<u>o</u>			
Spawn	205	14.57	0.001	1 79	12.06	0.001
			1			

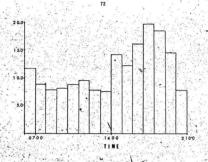


Figure 11. Hourly variation in frequency of approaches to conspecifica by territorial cale 2. <u>adaptorus</u>. Vertical axis represents mean number of approaches recorded per observation.

ii) Variation with tidal phase

Regressions indicated that the parameters Spawn and Approach varied with tidal phase. The relationship between spawning and tidal phase has been described above. Both approaches and spawns were most frequent between mid-flood and high tides (i.e. tidal phase 4) (Figure 12).

C: Seasonal and temperature-related variation of behavioural

Simple bivariate regressions showed significant variation of the parameters Approach and Chabe with water temperature (Table 14). None of the other-behavioural parameters varied with temperature during the description of the other temperature during the charget. 1977 observations.

The parameters Chips, Frontal, Lateral, and Courtahip Approach varied with week of observation, measured from the start of regular observations on 6 July 1977. Performance of frontal displays, lateral displays, and courtahip approaches was negatively correlated with week, displays, and courtahip approaches per observation. The weekly variation in mean frequency of frontal displays. Lateral displays, and courtahip approaches per observation is plotted in Figure 13. The weekly variation in mean frequency of chases/observation and in mean temperature/observation in plotted in Figure 14. Although the graph shows an operall increase in chase behaviour with time, chase behaviour appears to be influenced more atroughly by temperature than week, an confirmed by SESS regressions (Table 15).

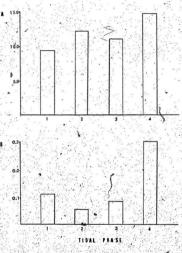


Figure 12. Variation of behavioural parameters with tidal phase (see p. 59). Vertical base represent mean number of (A) approaches and (S) spamma recorded per observation.

Table 14. Results of simple bivariate regressions of behavioural parameters on temperature (${\tt c}^{\circ}$).

Parameter	df	F value	P
Approach	1 359	46.31	•0.001
Chase	1 359	38.43	0.001
Isteral display	1 359	1.03	0.50
Frontal display	359	1.66	0.25
Courtship approach	234	1.78	0.25
Spawn.	215	1.68	0.25 -

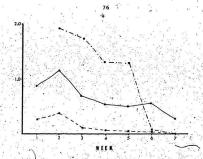


Figure 13. backly variation in frequency of courtship approaches (...,), lateral displays (* *), and frental displays (...) by territorial male 7. adopting (6 July -23 August 1977). Vertical axis represents mean number of each behavioural parameter recorded per observation.

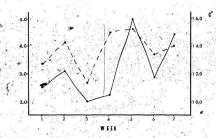


Figure 14. Veekly variation in temperature (°) (,---) and in frequency of chase behaviour (· ·) by territorial male <u>T. adaptation</u>.

Left vertical min represents the mean number of chased recorded / observation / week.

Table 15. Results of simple bivariate regressions of behavioural para-

Parameter	<u>at</u>	F value	<u>p</u>
Approach	1 440	2.26	0.10
Chase	1 440	18.26	0.001
Lateral display	440	13.79	0.001
Frontal display	440	37.37	0.001
Courtship approach	297	5.26	0.025
Spawn	268	2.26	0.10

DISCUSSION

Field observations of territorial male fautogrolabrus adaperaus indicate that the spanial season in Conception Bay Newfoundland spans a 4-6 week period from early July to mid-laguest. This coincides with the period Reid (1929) concluded, on the basis of inhtheplankton data, was most favourable" for development of cumner eggs and larvae in the Gulf of St. Laurence. In the Woods Hole region and off Connecticut, the cumner spans in June and early July (Kimtz and Radcliffe, 1918; Costello et al., 1957; Dev. 1976). Cumners off Connecticut become active by mid-April at a water temperature of 5 - 6°C (Dev. 1976). Our data indicate that cumners in Conception Bay are inactive until the same temperature is reached, usually after mid-Nay. If, throughout the range of the species, a similar périod as required to bring cunners to spanning season in after seergence from overwintering torpor, the later spanning season in the northern region may be due to later varuing of the vaters.

Real's sessonal data aboved a surfed peak in egg abundance from midto late July. Abundance of eggs in froad Cove peaked in the third weekof July in both 1977 and 1978. Surface tow results, the significant dereases in courtehip activity after mid-July, and the large proportion of spent results asong those taken from late July onwards suggest that most speams occur during the first 2 - 3 weeks of the speaming season. Although recorded spawning frequency did not vary significantly with week during the season, it is felt that a decrease in frequency as the season progresses tamed to ruled out due to the low power of the statiatical

The relationship between spawning and tidal phase is difficult to account for: Tidal effects on dispersal would be minor in Conception Bay

due to low tidak ampliquée (v1 m), but could be considerable in other pirts et the species' ranges. Naxiams offshore dispersal would be obtained if spamming occurred at high tide. Pish which spammed at low tide would achieve minimum offshore egg dispersal and, if in shallow water. Walld risk having eggs washed ashore. If maximum dispersal was the objective, spamming would be expected in approximately equal frequencies in the later part of the mid-flood to high tide phase and in the early part of the high tide to mid-short phase. However, this does not appear to be the case as most spams were observed between mid-flood and high tide.

Materon the cause of the quantitative relationship between tide and spanning frequency, time is the sore important factor in the regulation of reproductive behaviour. Spanning is observed only after 1300 hyp and, although most frequent before high tide, can occur during any phase of the cycle. Late morning or afternoon spanning appears to be characteristic of labrid fish. There are clear advantages, in terms of reduced predation pressure, to not spann in the early somning or late evening in boral reof habitats (Bobson, 1965, 1972). Field observations of territorial mile T. adspersus indicate that the increase in approach behaviour after 1900 hys is largely due to an influx of feater infruders. Data on foraging frequency suggests that cumners devote the sorning to a feeding and the afternoon primarily to reproductive activity during the essencing season.

T. adspersus pair spawning is generally similar to that of other labrid species. The vertical spawning run is a common feature of reproductive behaviour among both labride and occarise with pelagtic eggs.

Made T. adspersus, Daymeria flacellifers, (Mazarono and Testahara, 1974)

Crediabres meloge (Potts, 15%), Clotticus marrae (Robertson and Boffman, 1977), <u>r. onitis</u> (Ola and Seset, 1977; Ola et al., 1977), and <u>T. bifacintis</u> (Reinboth, 1973) are all aggressive toward other makes during the spanning season. The first three species/sfend torritica, whereas the last three attempt to exclude makes from a less distinct spanning site or sites.

Prior to the spanning season males of T. adsperous, T. coitis, and C. selops chilif aggressive behaviour to composifies of both sexes, usually initiated by a high speed approach to intruders. This approach, modified in the commer, tsutog, and corbring vrames, subsequently becomes a component of courtainly. Circling of a receptive feeale or both circling and rapid phases to the side, with exaggranted myimming movements, are components of courtainly in these species and in labroides phthirochagua (Youngbluth, 1968), Granilabrus terminokii (Moyer and Separch, 1975), D. Inscallifera (Malcadono and Toulcahars, 1974), and pair spanning T. bifanciatum (Reinboth, 1973) and T. cupido (Neyer, 1977). Like the cumer, L. phthirochagua faces the feeale during courtainly displays and leans the dorpal surface away. Similar tilting by T. adsperous may simbase the display through presentation of the bright bolly and flank: Alternatively, lesning say counteract a tendency to roll while the sale's head in turned toward the female.

Female cunners do not communicate receptivity to courtain by any visible means other than relative immobility on the substrate and failure to files as a male approaches.

Pair spawning has been described for a masher of labrid species; Moyer and Separd (1975), Nakasono and Taukahara (1974), Olla and Saset (1977), Potts (1974), Randall and Handall (1963), Reinboth (1973), Robertson and Quost (1974), Goode (1972), Younghith (1968). At least two species, Theliseone bifunciatus and T. lunner exhibit dullistic representive behaviour. Roese (1972) described what may have been group spanning Halichoeres by vittatus and H. monthlyims, especies previously thought to be exclusively pur speners.

The group splkining cumers described by Wishland (1970) were of a size at which sexual dichrosation is poorly developed or lacking in Not-foundland vaters. The larger cumers present defended territories but were not observed to opens. The active "defense" of these territories may have included courthin approaches to females. To the casual observer, these could easily be mininterpreted an agenistic behaviour, as fermales usually flee when approached. The low frequency of pair opensing (0.5 apama/hour of observation in the present study) may explain by it was not observed. The non-participation of large, berritorial fish in group speaking is consistent with descriptions of dualistic reproductive behaviour in other labrid species.

Although group spanning by T. adesperms has not been seen in Newfoundand, the possibility of the occurrence cannot be discounted. The
mean Th of fish takes in the present bettyly wan 21 m. Fish of less than
125 m TL (i.e. those which group spann in southern waters) were scarced.
However, collections on the southeast count of Newfoundand in 1958 and
1970 consisted mainly of fish of this size of smaller, some with mature

gonade (Green, unpublished data). Although several dives were made in the area in 1978, group spawns were not observed. Again this may be a consequence of limited observation time and infrequent spawning. Too little is known with regard to the behaviour of young cunners to explain their low numbers at Broad Cove, or to suggest why they might be more plentiful in other locations.

Robertson and Chooat (1974) suggested that group spanning in labrids could arise when small, drab, sexually sature makes were able to collectively over-ride female mate choice for older, more colourful makes or 'gaudies.' Under normal conditions young males would be largely unrecognizable to females as potential makes, due to their similar colouration. If young makes exhibited courtehip behaviour near territorial makes they might risk recognition and attack and the female could still select the gaudy male over the drab. Robertson and Choat suggest that the solution in the formation of aggregations in which drab makes heavily outnumber females. "Secause these large concentrations tend to be away from gaudies' territoried, the probability of a direct choice situation arising is reduced. When a choice does arise it is of many drabs against perhaps a single gaudy, which would help reduce the relative stimulus value of the gaudy." The stimulation provided by many drab makes clustering about a female would then be sufficient to elicit a span.

This being the case, it is curious that the nonterritorial males in Broad Coye have not been observed to group spawn. Most nonterritorial males are of a size at which sexual dichromating is well developed. Prenumebly an aggregation of 'gaudy' males would be more stimulating to a female then one of drab males. Lack of group spawning may be related

Robertson and Choat (1974) p. 224

to the Tow numbers of males in mid-water aggregations. Without data on the relative numbers of territorial and nonterritorial cunners in the population and the relative abundance of different age classes, the apparent lack of group spanning in Broad Cove cannot be explained.

Only territorial male <u>T. adspersus</u> were observed to successfully court and spawn with females. This suggests that sexual activity is largely restricted to females and to the older and larger males. Thus, the sex ratio of the treeding population must differ from the observed 1:1 ratio of the general population. Similar discrepancies in sex ratio of the breeding and general populations have been recorded in other promiscuous and polygymous bird and fish species (Noble, 1938; Kandall and Randall, 1955; Selander, 1955).

Although speaming is almost exclusively performed by territorial males of at least 7 years of age, Johansen's data (1925) and the observed attempts of 'juveniles' and nonterritorial males to join speaming pair's indicate that the sexual naturation of male T. saspergus is not delayed. In a situation where males defend the same territory from year to year and are capable of maintaining relatively inflexible boundaries, some fish may never obtain a territory. Natural selection would favour the expenditure of energy by young and/or nonterritorial fish in gonadal development, in case an opportunity to join pair spaamers arose. It is of interest to note that nonterritorial male T. saspergus were most frequently seen in mid-water, seaward of the territories along the edge of the drop off from 4 - 6.5 m, and that the observed attempts to join spaaming fish occurred in these territories alone. It is probably easier to gain access to fringe territoriesponds as these than to territories in more central locations.

With such a high premium, in terms of reproductive fitness, associated with made territoriality, intense competition for territories would be expected in late May and early June, when territories are reoccupied by previously territorial fish, and when competition for areas vacated due to overwintering mortality would be expected. Although not recorded, such competition may occur, as relatively few observations have been made in May and June. No quantitative data are available for comparison of frequency of aggression toward comspecifies during territory establishment with frequency later in the season.

Territorial behaviour in reef and other benthic fish can have several functions defense of spame, shelter, and/or a food resource. The cunner's pelagic eggs and larvae preclude defense of spawn. Territorial behaviour in male <u>T. adspersus</u> does entail maintenance of an exclusive spawning area, and this may be its primary function. A number of data support this viewpoint: the consistent agonistic responges to male intruders as opposed to tolerance of receptive females within the territory, the concurrent decrease of courtchip behaviour and aggressive interactions between territorial males, and the more frequent forays outside the territory after spawning season.

There are indications that territorial defense before and during the spanning season may serve another, subsidiary function: provision of an adequate food supply for the resident fish. Observations have shown that males forage almost exclusively within their territories during the spanning season. If a cunner is not to be forced to forage away from the territory, both conspecifies and contraspecifies with aimilar diets must be prevented from feeding within it. The brief absences noted among some of the males may be indicative of a scarcity of prey within their territories

with regard to comspecific competitors, transient females not receptive to courtship and san's introders are always chased. Although territorial desales are present in some territories, the constant presence of a potentially receptive female may offset the dissolvantages of competition for prey. Territorial females are usually found in areas with rubble substrate, and not on bare bedrock where both shelter and Senthic prey would be less shundard.

Interactions with contraspecifics also suggest defense of a food supply by territorial males. Interspecific aggression has been identified as an important component of territory defense in adminer of corol reef specks which maintain territories outside of the reproductive measure (Low, 1671; Mursall, 1574; Myrberg and Thresher, 1974). Defense of shelter, food supply, or spawn are possible functions of interspecific territoriality (Thresher, 1976 a., b.). Pommentrus flavicauda, a herbivorous species, defends the entire home range as a territory and exhibits aggression towards 38 omniverous or herbivorous species, but not to carnivogue (Low, 1577).

It is doubtful that may of the species chased by territorial 2.

separcus pose a threat to shelter swallshility. Capelin, flounder, and
ood are not normally found in crevices in the substrate. Although P.

gunnallus does seek shelter in rocky substrates, the species is considerably smaller than the cummer and there is little overlap in shelter
size requirements. Ocean posts, **herosources americanus**, occupied crevices in several territories but were too large to be displaced by a

cummer. In a territory where a single large crevice was available for
shelter it was used by both the resident cummer and an ocean pout. How-

ever, the temporal overlap in occupancy was probably small as ocean pouts are active nocturnally.

beforms of a food fresource is a more probable cause of interspecific aggression in <u>T. Asspersus</u>. Aggression towards flounder and cotfide was most frequent during and just after spawning runs of <u>Hellotus villosus</u>. During this period all three species were in competition for injured capalin and dead fish found on the substrate. The single observed chases of a capalin by a cumner was more likely an attempt to capture it than to exclude the fish from a territory. The rook gunsals, which feeds on shripp, applipode, and arrian worms, say be a constant source of competition for benthic prey. <u>Fholis gunnelling</u> was the only contraspecific introder consistently chased by territohial male <u>T. adappresss</u>.

Feale territorial behaviour in 12. adoperate is a rather possiling phenomenon. The limited data suggest that, as in the case of alles, the territory functions primarily are a spaining site from which potential rivals are excluded. Four of the five recorded spames by these fish occurred within their territories. Furthermore, most territories were wanted by mid-laguant, after the peak of spaining activity and at a period whom most iscales were spent. It is not known whether female territoriality is also associated with defenne of a food resource. Although females' territories are far smaller than males', this does not necessarily imply that they are inadequate in terms of food availability. Females, unlike sales, so not exact energy through courtship behaviour, rarply sugges in border disputes' with conspecifics and, see to the small size of their territories, would be expected to expend less energy in their defennes. Bowever, as the timing and energy requirestents of gonadal maturation are unknown, it is possible that the expected greater expenditure

by females in egg development would offset the energetic advantages associated with defense of a small territory.

Territorial females do figuar to graze on zooplankton more frequently than males and may compensate for a lack of benthic prey in this manmer. In addition, females are more resailly attracted to baif outside the territory than are males. This may indicate that territorial females are less restricted in their sovements (or immerier) than males and might be soop likely to forege off the territory between spanns.

The small size of females' territories and their location on or nearthe borders of males' territories may be determined by male agonistic
behaviour, Sale (16/4) noted that where food was plentiful, saturing
Francentrus ward; were able to establish territories on the boundaries
between areas defended by older fish. The single observed attempt to establish a new territory by a male cummer occurred on a boundary between
previously occupied areas. These observations suggest that some territorial species are less aggressive toward conspecifies on the periphery
of the territory than to-those in the central area. In combination with
their colouration, which presumably will elicit courtchip rather than
aggressice, and a failure to flee when apprecaded by a male, which can
signify receptivity to courtchip, this may account for both toleration
of females in a male's territory on a continual basis, and their presence
in peripheral areas.

The proportion of females which exhibit territorial behaviour is unknown, although data from tagged find indicate that up to 25% of females are territorial during the spanning season. With the present data there is no readily apparent advantage in territorial defense by female cumers. It is clear that there are both territorial and nonterritorial females, and that both behavioural 'types' spews. All appear capable of

Although this aspect of the discussion is speculative, an advantage to female territorial behaviour can be seen if territorial mises are unable to fertilize all females' spann and if group spanners are not available to 'take up the alack.' Under such conditions competition between females for spanning partners would be expected, with restricted access to makes as a possible result. Presumably, territorial females are successful in preventing some sonterritorial fish from entering a male's territoffy. With fewer transient females available as spanning partners, there would be an increased probability that the male could fertilize all eggs produced by the territorial females.

The Broad Cove cunner population may for reserve a reproductive system in transition from that in southern waters where all fish may have an opportunity to spawn, either in groups or pairs, to one in which competition is required for access to spawning partners in both sexes.

- Some male <u>T. adopterous</u> defend territories against both conspecific and contraspecific intruders from early June until at least late September. But fish occupy the same tempitories from year to year.
- Data indicates that the majority of territorial males are larger than 210 m Tlyand at least 7 years old.
- Monterfitorial males are vigourously excluded from territories and appear to contribute little to the reproductive output of the apecias.
- Nonterritorial, sexually mature males with either juvenile or adult colouration occasionally attempt to join speaking pairs during gamete release.
- A number of females defend small territories in the peripheral areas
 of some males' territories during the spawning season, and exhibit
 aggressive behaviour toward other females.
- Tehritorial females usually spam within their territories, with the male in whose territory they reside, although some may be promiscuous.
- The primary function of territorial behaviour in both sexes appears to be defense of a opening area from which potential rivals are excluded.
- Both territorial and nonterritorial females spann with territorial males. Nonterritorial females are thought to be prociscuous.

- 9. Both sexes are capable of multiple spawns.
- 10. Group spawning by nonterritorial fish has not been observed.
- Spauning occurs over a 4 6 week period from early July to mid-August, and reaches a post in the third year of July.
- Courtehip behaviour and agonistic interactions between adjacent territorial males gradually decrease in frequency as the spewming season progresses.
- 13. On again; opproaches and courtening displays to female intruders by territorial males are note. frequent after 1300 hrs than before, and reach a peak in frequency between 1800 and 1900 hrs. Spawns occur, between 1300 and 2100 hrs.
- 14. Significantly sore spame and approaches to female intruders by territorial males are observed during the sid-flood to high tide phase of the tidal cycle.
- 15. Territorial make, and females confined without food in a mesh cage on the substrate, for 5 7 days during the spawning season, exhibit increased frequency and duration of agonistic interactions with adapent territorial fish upon return to their territories. Monterviculal fish do not exhibit aggregation toward consignifies after release.

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APPENDIX

PRAW Data

TAG

Data collected during 442 field observations of territorial male Tautogolabrus adspersus are tabulated below. In each horizontal row are the parameter values obtained from a single 15 min observation. Parameters are:

WEEK - from start of observations (6' July, 1977)

- from start of observations

TIME - hour of observation

TIDE - tidal phase

- temperature in C - tag number

APPR - number of approaches observed

CHASE - number of chases observed

IATER - number of lateral displays observed

FRONT - number of frontal displays observed

- number of courtship approaches observed

SPAWN - number of spawns observed

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