

Research cruise data on the biology of the lesser flying squid,



A total of 324 specimens of the ommastrephid squid *Todaropsis eblanae*, collected from bottom trawl surveys in the North Sea was examined. Information on seasonal length frequency distributions and relationships of beak size to mantle length and wet body mass from the northernmost distribution of the species is supplied. The overall male:female ratio was 1: 0.78. Maturing males and females were found in winter and summer, while fully mature animals were observed only in summer. Sexual maturity in females occurred in bigger sizes than in males. Specimens were caught in water depths between 56 and 170 m throughout the whole investigated area except from the German Bight. This paper presents the first biological data on *T. eblanae* in the North Sea derived from scientific surveys.

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