

Changes in Lipids of Young and Adult Saury *Cololabis saira* (Pisces)

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ABSTRACT: Class and fatty acid compositions of the lipids were investigated in young and adult saury *Cololabis saira* from the northwestern Pacific Ocean. In the flesh of young fish during northward migration, lipid contents were about 3%. Adults in the feeding period contained more than 15% lipid contents in August (males) and September (females). In adult flesh, the lipid contents decreased gradually during southward migration and reached about 4% in late November. Triglycerides in flesh lipids increased with lipid accumulation. Wax esters occurred mainly as a minor component in flesh lipids of saury during the feeding period. Fatty acids of adult non-polar lipids contained more 20:1 and 22:1 than those of juveniles. These acids increased gradually during southward migration and reached 24.7% for 20:1 and 32.8% for 22:1 in late November. On the other hand, 16:0, 16:1, 18:1 and 18:4 ω 3 tended to decrease. These fluctuations in lipid may be related not only to dietary lipids but also to the utilization of lipids by the fish for migration and gonadal maturation.

INTRODUCTION

The biology of saury *Cololabis saira*, as related to fisheries' interests in the northeastern seas of Japan, has been investigated in numerous studies because the saury is one of the most important local resources. Tsuchiya et al. (1953) studied the chemical components of saury during different fishing seasons and found that fat contents were inversely proportional to moisture contents, and that fat plus moisture contents remained constant at about 80% of the meat weight throughout the experimental period. Hata and Tashiro (1953) described the relation between calorific value, body size and fishing season. Nagakura (1956) reported high fat contents at the beginning of the fishing season decreased toward the end of it. Ito and Fukuzumi (1962) and Shimma and Taguchi (1964) analyzed the fatty acid composition of saury oil and compared their data with those of other fish oils. Ackman (1963) revealed the occurrence of 4, 7, 10, 13, 16-docosapentaenoic acid in commercial saury oil.

The present paper deals with variations in lipid class and fatty acid compositions of saury during young and adult stages, in order to assess the ecological significance of changes in lipids.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The *Cololabis saira* used in this study were taken by a stick-held dip net from northwestern Pacific Ocean waters in 1973 and 1974. Several males and females of uniform size were selected for analyses. After measuring body length and weight, the flesh lipids of each fish were extracted by employing the method of Bligh and Dyer (1959). The livers were pooled and extracted with identical procedures.

Flesh and liver lipids were separated into non-polar lipids and polar lipids by silicic acid-celite 545 (2:1 w/w) column chromatography using chloroform and methanol as solvents. Each lipid fraction was saponified with 1N alcoholic KOH solution. The recovered fatty acids were then esterified with 14% BF₃ in methanol.

Gas-liquid chromatography of fatty acid methyl esters was carried out on a Yanagimoto gas chromatograph (G80) equipped with a hydrogen flame ionization detector. Two columns (1.5 m in length, 3 mm i.d.) packed with 5% DEGS on Chromosorb WAW-DMCS (100–120 mesh) and 10% DEGS on Chromosorb WAW (80–100 mesh) were used. For analysis, the column temperature was programmed from 155 ° to 210 °C, at

4 °C min⁻¹, using a 5 % DEGS column. It was maintained at 190 °C using 10 % DEGS column. Injector and detector temperature were 240 °C. A digital integrator (Shimadzu ITG-4AX) was applied to determine peak areas.

The thin-layer chromatographic system proposed by Downing (1968) was followed for separation and quantification of classes of non-polar lipids. They were separated by a three-step development on a silica gel plate (Wakogel B-5, 0.25 mm thickness). The solvents used were n-hexane at the first step; benzene at the second; and n-hexane : diethyl ether : acetic acid (70:30:1 by vol.) at the third step. After development, the individual spots were visualized by spraying with 50 % H₂SO₄ and heating at 180 °C for 90 min. Quantification of each spot was carried out on a photoden-

sitometer (Ozumer OZ-82D). Triglycerides and free fatty acids containing small amounts of partial glycerides were isolated from non-polar lipids by preparative thin-layer chromatography on a silica gel plate (Wakogel B-10, 0.5 mm thickness) with benzene. After spraying the plate with 0.1 % ethanolic rhodamine B, the corresponding bands were scraped off and extracted with diethyl ether. The fatty acids from each fraction were esterified with 14 % BF₃ in methanol.

RESULTS

The lipid contents in the flesh of young *Cololabis saira* during their northward migratory period ranged from 2.8 to 3.4 %. Values for adults (No. 5) during this

Table 1. *Cololabis saira*. Dates and locations of sampling, body sizes, and lipid contents in flesh and liver

No. of sample ^a	Date	Location	Sex ^b	Body length ^c (cm)	Body weight ^c (g)	Lipid content (%)	
						Flesh ^c	Liver
1	May 25, '74	36°33'N	F	31.8	140	3.4	4.4
		151°50'E	M	30.4	150	3.1	6.2
2	May 28, '74	38°15'N	F	20.7	32	2.8	7.4
		145°00'E	M	19.8	33	3.3	8.4
3	May 29, '74	38°15'N	F	15.8	18	3.4	—
		145°00'E	M	13.5	10	3.4	—
4	May 29, '74	38°15'N	F	17.1	20	2.7	8.4
		144°30'E	M	14.6	13	2.9	8.1
5	June 5, '73	39°25'N	F	30.4	121	8.9	—
		148°59'E	M	30.5	122	6.4	—
6	June 6, '73	41°10'N	F/M	16.7	10	3.4	—
		153°01'E					
7	Aug. 15, '73	44°00'N	F	30.5	158	16.3	21.7
		151°00'E	M	28.0	135	15.7	—
8	Sept. 18, '73	42°51'N	F	31.1	122	12.0	18.5
		145°26'E	M	30.9	131	14.4	16.6
9	Sept. 21, '73	41°20'N	F	30.6	118	18.1	28.9
		144°50'E	M	30.8	123	13.7	27.0
10	Oct. 15, '73	42°40'N	M	29.5	112	10.7	12.4
		144°40'E					
11	Oct. 24, '73	42°58'N	F	27.1	84	9.2	16.5
		144°45'E	M	30.2	123	11.1	15.6
12	Oct. 25, '73	37°06'N	F	30.5	114	7.6	11.3
		141°30'E	M	30.1	122	6.8	—
13	Nov. 1, '73	39°17'N	F	31.0	138	12.6	21.6
		143°59'E	M	31.2	137	8.1	16.1
14	Nov. 8, '73	38°37'N	F	30.9	133	11.0	21.8
		141°56'E	M	29.6	118	9.5	18.3
15	Nov. 14, '73	36°28'N	F	29.8	110	5.9	9.7
		141°22'E	M	30.1	109	5.5	—
16	Nov. 29, '73	35°26'N	F	27.0	80	4.5	—
		140°49'E	M	29.5	106	3.9	—
17	Dec. 1, '73	37°07'N	F	27.8	84	6.5	6.9
		141°31'E	M	26.8	82	7.7	12.6

^a 1-6: Northward migratory period; 7-11: feeding period; 12-17: southward migratory period

^b F: female, M: male

^c Mean values

period were somewhat higher: 6.4 % for males and 8.9 % for females (June), than those for adults (No. 1) taken in May (Table 1). These results indicate differences in the ability to recover from spawning and overwintering conditions. Flesh lipid contents of adult fish during the feeding period (August–October) exceeded 10 %. Throughout the experiment, the highest value for males occurred in August, that for females in September. During the southward migratory period, flesh lipid contents decreased gradually down to 3.9 % in males and 4.5 % in females in late November. Livers contained always larger amounts of lipids than flesh from the same lot. The sequential changes in the amount of flesh lipids were also observed for the liver.

The progressive decrease of flesh lipid contents during southward migration may be correlated not only to the decrease in the amount of food (about 10 % of that available during the feeding period; Odate, 1977) in this sea area, but also to gonadal maturation. In addition, a slightly faster reduction in lipid contents of male

flesh was observed. This indicates that males in general mature prior to females.

The lipids of young fish during the northward migratory period contained more sterol esters and phospholipids than those of adults during the feeding period (Table 2). During the feeding period, the flesh lipids contained much more triglycerides, representing about 80 % of the total lipids. The triglycerides tended to decrease gradually during a period of southward migration, whereas free fatty acids and free sterols increased. Wax ester – minor components in the flesh lipids during the feeding period – were not detected during the pre-spawning period (November–October).

The fatty acid composition of non-polar lipids in flesh are shown in Tables 3 and 4. In adults, fatty acid composition of flesh lipids taken during the feeding and southward migratory period paralleled approximately the results reported by Ito and Fukuzumi (1962), Ackman (1963) and Shimma and Taguchi (1964), establishing as major fatty acids: 14:0, 16:0,

Table 2. *Cololabis saira*. Lipid class composition of flesh lipids (expressed as % of total lipids)

No. of sample ^a	Sex ^b	Lipid class ^c							
		HC	SE	WE	TG	FFA	ST	DG	PL
1	F	Tr ^d	1.1	–	47.9	18.3	2.9	4.8	24.9
	M	0.1	0.8	–	48.4	18.0	3.0	3.9	25.8
2	F	0.1	1.6	–	39.1	19.6	2.6	3.9	33.1
	M	Tr	1.7	–	41.6	20.5	3.1	4.7	28.4
4	M	0.3	2.5	–	39.5	16.3	3.4	3.7	34.3
5	F	0.3	1.1	Tr	64.5	14.5	2.6	5.4	11.7
	M	0.3	1.5	0.3	66.2	14.0	2.3	5.3	10.0
6	F/M	0.3	1.8	0.3	39.9	14.8	1.8	4.7	36.4
7	F	0.2	0.7	0.1	79.6	9.1	2.1	3.8	4.4
	M	0.4	0.9	0.4	79.2	8.6	2.3	3.3	4.9
8	F	0.1	0.4	–	82.6	8.5	1.1	1.8	5.5
	M	0.1	0.4	–	78.4	12.6	1.5	2.2	4.6
9	F	0.1	0.5	0.2	79.3	9.2	2.0	3.5	5.2
	M	0.3	0.9	0.3	78.2	8.9	1.9	3.2	6.2
10	M	0.1	0.2	–	74.2	13.7	2.0	3.0	6.7
11	F	0.1	0.3	–	75.6	10.4	1.4	3.9	8.3
	M	0.2	0.8	0.1	73.3	11.0	1.5	4.4	8.7
12	F	0.1	0.8	0.2	72.1	10.1	1.9	3.8	11.0
	M	0.3	0.9	0.4	71.7	9.7	2.0	3.7	11.2
13	F	0.1	0.4	–	70.8	14.1	2.6	5.2	6.8
	M	0.1	0.6	–	72.6	10.7	2.2	3.6	10.3
14	F	0.2	0.7	–	75.4	10.3	2.7	3.3	7.4
	M	0.2	0.7	–	73.3	10.3	1.9	2.9	10.7
15	F	0.2	0.6	–	64.7	10.4	2.4	3.9	17.7
	M	0.2	0.7	–	69.9	8.6	1.9	3.0	15.6
16	F	0.1	0.8	–	52.2	18.1	3.2	5.3	20.3
	M	0.1	1.0	–	54.9	19.3	3.8	4.7	16.2
17	F	0.1	0.8	–	58.5	17.3	3.5	4.4	15.4
	M	Tr	0.5	–	64.1	16.7	3.3	4.9	10.5

^a Refer to footnote in Table 1

^b Refer to footnote in Table 1

^c HC: Hydrocarbons; SE: sterol esters; WE: wax esters; TG: triglycerides; FFA: free fatty acids; ST: sterols; DG: diglycerides; PL: phospholipids

^d Trace (less than 0.05%)

Table 3. *Cololabis saira*. Composition of major fatty acids of non-polar lipids in female flesh (%)

Fatty acid ^a	May				June		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.				Dec.
	1 ^b	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
14:0	5.1	5.8	5.6	5.1	7.8	12.1	11.2	10.5	9.9	9.9	7.5	9.3	9.6	8.1	6.4		
16:0	22.2	26.7	25.6	22.2	21.3	16.3	15.2	13.6	15.1	13.4	12.5	14.0	12.3	12.1	9.8		
17:0	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.3		
18:0	6.7	7.3	7.0	4.9	4.6	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.9		
16:1	5.4	5.6	5.2	5.3	6.1	6.9	5.7	4.9	5.0	4.4	4.7	4.7	3.8	4.7	3.6		
18:1	10.5	9.5	9.4	9.0	8.0	6.3	5.4	6.2	5.8	6.1	6.6	6.7	5.8	6.2	5.3		
20:1	6.5	4.7	6.3	8.6	8.4	15.1	17.3	16.6	18.9	18.2	18.0	15.4	18.5	18.3	20.2		
22:1	6.6	5.8	6.0	10.9	9.3	15.7	16.1	17.6	20.3	22.0	19.9	19.7	20.6	24.8	28.0		
24:1	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.8	1.4	2.3	2.1	2.0		
18:2 ω 6	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0		
18:3 ω 3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.2	1.0	1.6	1.2	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.3		
18:4 ω 3	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	3.5	4.4	4.2	5.0	3.4	2.4	3.4	3.5	2.9	1.7	3.0		
20:4 ω 3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.6	1.4	0.6	0.9		
20:5 ω 3	7.1	6.7	6.8	7.3	7.8	3.5	5.7	4.8	5.3	5.3	5.9	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.1		
22:5 ω 3	2.0	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.0	1.3	1.1	0.1	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.2		
22:6 ω 3	17.8	16.0	15.6	14.9	11.8	6.6	6.0	6.8	5.7	6.5	10.3	7.1	8.3	8.8	8.7		
Total saturated acids:	36.0	42.1	40.8	34.3	35.2	31.5	29.4	27.5	29.0	26.8	23.2	27.7	26.0	23.8	19.1		
Total mono-unsaturated acids:	31.7	27.8	29.5	36.5	33.9	45.8	46.4	47.3	51.7	53.3	51.8	48.8	51.7	56.8	59.7		
Total poly-unsaturated acids:	32.2	30.1	29.7	29.3	30.9	22.7	24.2	25.2	19.3	19.9	25.1	23.5	22.3	19.4	21.1		

^a Other acids – including 12:0, Iso 15:0, 15:0, Iso 16:0, 14:1, 17:1, 19:1, 16:2 ω 7, 16:4 ω 3, 16:4 ω 1, 20:2 ω 6, 20:3 ω 6, 20:4 ω 6, 21:5 ω 3 and 22:5 ω 6 – were detected as minor components representing less than 1% of the total fatty acids

^b No. of sample

Table 4. *Cololabis saira*. Composition of major fatty acids of non-polar lipids in male flesh (%)

Fatty acid ^a	May				June		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.			Nov.				Dec.
	1 ^b	2	3	4	5	6 ^c	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
14:0	5.5	6.6	5.6	5.4	8.7	7.5	11.1	10.0	10.9	11.9	13.0	10.5	11.8	9.3	10.4	7.9	8.1	
16:0	20.3	25.7	22.4	22.8	19.1	19.8	15.6	15.5	15.0	13.6	14.9	13.9	12.4	11.9	10.5	8.5	12.6	
17:0	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.2	0.2	
18:0	5.8	6.8	6.0	5.2	3.1	3.9	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.8	
16:1	5.2	6.0	5.4	5.4	6.4	5.5	6.1	5.9	5.3	4.8	5.2	5.2	4.7	4.4	3.2	3.7	5.1	
18:1	8.9	8.7	7.9	8.7	5.9	6.0	5.6	5.9	6.1	5.1	6.2	7.8	5.5	5.5	4.5	4.4	5.7	
20:1	6.8	4.8	5.7	8.0	9.4	9.7	15.0	14.6	14.8	17.3	18.3	18.7	19.2	20.8	21.4	24.7	18.6	
22:1	8.4	7.7	7.5	9.8	12.2	14.5	15.5	13.9	17.7	19.1	19.4	18.8	21.3	24.6	27.9	32.8	22.3	
24:1	2.1	1.5	1.5	1.6	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.4	1.6	2.0	0.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.7	2.0	1.7	
18:2 ω 6	1.1	0.9	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.8	
18:3 ω 3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.0	0.6	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	
18:4 ω 3	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.8	5.1	4.4	4.4	3.3	3.3	2.7	3.4	2.6	2.5	1.4	2.5	
20:4 ω 3	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.9	
20:5 ω 3	7.1	6.7	7.3	7.3	8.7	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.1	4.6	4.8	5.0	4.0	4.0	2.9	2.4	5.9	
22:5 ω 3	2.4	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.7	0.7	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.5	
22:6 ω 3	18.5	14.7	18.0	15.0	10.5	12.8	7.1	7.7	7.0	6.5	4.6	3.5	8.1	6.0	5.9	5.3	8.8	
Total saturated acids:	33.8	42.7	37.2	35.6	33.1	33.5	30.0	29.6	29.4	29.2	31.8	28.1	27.0	24.4	24.5	18.8	23.7	
Total mono-unsaturated acids:	32.3	29.7	29.3	34.5	35.9	38.1	44.0	42.6	46.4	49.1	50.6	53.0	53.1	57.6	59.7	68.1	54.2	
Total poly-unsaturated acids:	34.1	27.4	33.4	30.0	30.9	28.4	26.0	27.8	24.2	21.7	17.6	18.8	19.9	18.0	15.8	12.9	22.1	

^a Refer to footnote in Table 3

^b Refer to footnote in Table 3

^c Contains female flesh lipids

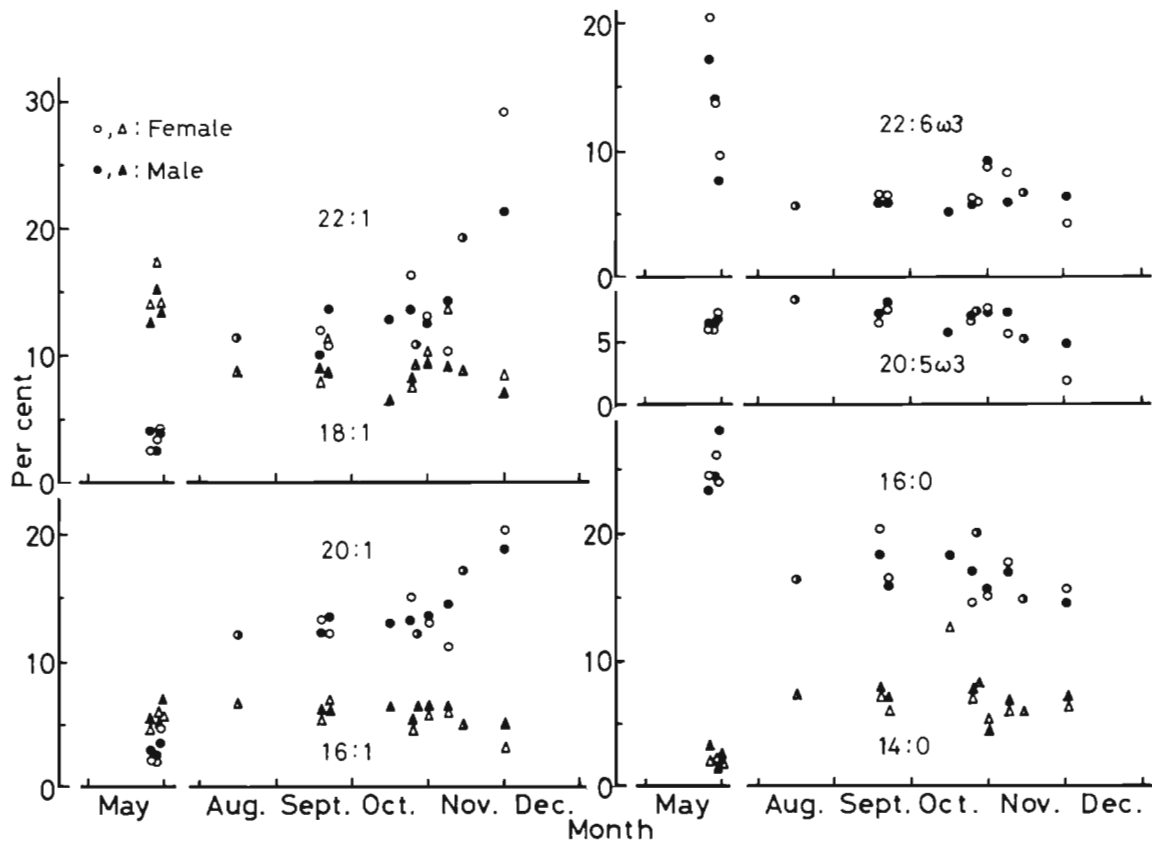


Fig. 1. *Cololabis saira*. Variations of major fatty acids of non-polar lipids in saury liver

Table 5. *Cololabis saira*. Fatty acid composition of lipid fractions of saury flesh (%)

Fatty acid	TG ^a	FFA ^a	PL ^a	Fatty acid	TG	FFA	PL
Saturated acids				Poly-unsaturated acids			
12:0	Tr ^b	0.1	Tr	16:2ω7	0.1	0.7	0.2
14:0	9.9	7.6	1.8	16:4ω3	0.1	0.5	Tr
Iso 15:0	0.3	0.6	Tr	16:4ω1	0.3	0.1	0.1
15:0	0.3	0.4	0.2	18:2ω6	0.3	0.5	0.2
Iso 16:0	Tr	0.1	Tr	18:3ω3	0.4	0.2	0.2
16:0	7.7	8.6	23.7	18:4ω3	0.4	0.4	Tr
17:0	0.1	0.6	0.6	20:2ω6	0.1	0.1	0.2
18:0	1.4	1.8	8.5	20:3ω6	Tr	Tr	Tr
Total	19.7	19.8	34.8	20:4ω3	Tr	0.2	0.1
Mono-unsaturated acids				20:5ω3	2.1	3.1	4.5
14:1	0.1	0.7	0.2	21:5ω3	Tr	1.8	Tr
16:1	3.2	5.4	1.7	22:5ω6	Tr	Tr	0.4
17:1 ^c	0.2	0.2	0.1	22:5ω3	1.2	1.9	2.0
18:1	4.2	5.0	4.4	22:6ω3	3.0	7.0	40.6
19:1	Tr	0.1	0.1	Total	8.0	16.6	48.5
20:1	27.0	22.5	4.5				
22:1	35.6	28.6	5.9				
24:1	2.0	1.7	Tr				
Total	72.3	63.7	16.7				

^a TG: Triglycerides; FFA: free fatty acids; PL: phospholipids

^b Trace (less than 0.05%)

^c Includes 16:2ω4

16:1, 18:1, 20:1, 22:1, 20:5 ω 3 and 22:6 ω 3. The fatty acid composition of flesh lipids during northward migration differed clearly from those in individuals obtained during other periods. The major differences in fatty acid contents were as follows: 14:0, 20:1 and 22:1 were lower, while 16:0, 20:5 ω 3 were higher than those recorded during other periods. During the southward migratory period, non-polar lipids of males tended to contain more 20:1 and 22:1, but less 20:5 ω 3 and 22:6 ω 3 than those of females.

Fatty acids indicating maximum variation were 20:1 and 22:1. These acids increased with decreasing lipid contents of the flesh during southward migration. On the contrary, 16:0, 16:1, 18:1, 18:4 ω 3 and 20:5 ω 3 tended to decrease. Especially, flesh lipids from males caught in late November revealed to highest amount of 20:1 (24.7 %) and 22:1 (32.8 %). When comparing the fatty acid composition of lipids in liver and flesh, it becomes clear that liver lipids contain relatively high amounts of 16:0, 16:1, 18:1 and 20:5 ω 3, but low amounts of 14:0, 20:1 and 22:1. Fluctuations similar to those in 20:1 and 22:1 of flesh lipids were also observed in liver (Fig. 1). The fatty acid composition of lipid fractions in male flesh lipids in late November (No. 16) are shown in Table 5. Triglycerides and free fatty acids contained much more 20:1 and 22:1 than phospholipids which were rich in 16:0 and 22:6 ω 3.

DISCUSSION

During the feeding period in the cold current Oyashio region, *Cololabis saira* mainly feeds on copepods such as *Calanus cristatus* and *C. plumchrus* (Hotta and Odate, 1956). As is well known, some copepod species contain large amounts of wax esters as energy reserve instead of triglycerides (Lee et al., 1971b; Benson et al., 1972; Kayama et al., 1976). Takahashi and Yamada (1976) examined the lipid composition of seven species of crustacean plankters and found that *C. plumchrus* contained 68 % wax esters and 7 % triglycerides in its total lipids; the major fatty alcohols found in wax esters were alc 20:1 and alc 22:1; these represented more than 60 % of the total.

While it may be suggestive that such dietary lipid composition may considerably influence the lipid composition of saury and that saury accumulate wax esters, in flesh lipids, wax esters ranged only from 0.4 to 1.0 % during the feeding period. On the other hand, triglycerides containing high amounts of 20:1 and 22:1 acids represented the dominant lipid class.

In marine animals, biosynthesis and metabolism of wax esters have been studied by many investigators (e. g. Lee et al., 1970, 1971a; Nevenzel, 1970; Sand et al., 1971, 1973). In fishes, hydrolysis of wax esters

occurs in the intestinal tract, and the released fatty alcohols are oxidized to fatty acids (Rahn et al., 1973). The high concentration of long-chain mono-unsaturated acids (20:1 and 22:1) in non-polar lipids of saury flesh suggests that the resulting fatty acids further re-esterified into triglycerides. It is presumed that the digestive lipase concerned with the hydrolysis of wax esters in saury would be more active during the feeding period than during other stages of migration (Patton et al., 1975).

During the southward migratory period, some changes in fatty acid composition of saury lipids were observed. These variations may be related to the selective utilization of fatty acids as energy source rather than to influx from dietary sources. Our results indicate that 16:0, 16:1 and 18:1 acids are utilized selectively for migration and gonadal maturation, while long-chain mono-unsaturated acids (20:1 and 22:1) remain without decomposition and are stored in the lipids. As shown in Table 5, the relatively high contents of 16:0, 16:1 and 18:1 and the low contents of long-chain mono-unsaturated acids in the free fatty acids, as compared with the triglycerides, may also represent a phenomenon related to the selective utilization of fatty acids by fishes (Krueger et al., 1968; Saddler et al., 1972; Hayashi and Takagi, 1977).

In recent years, the influences of docosenoic acids (22:1) on mammalian organs have attracted the attention of many researchers. Results of studies on function and metabolism of this acid in each organ were described elsewhere (Beare-Rogers, 1977; Takagi, 1978). Ackman and Loew (1977a, b) revealed that the skeletal and cardiac muscle of the cynomolgus monkeys *Macaca fascicularis* fed diets containing high levels of fat rich in docosenoic acids (erucic acid or cetoleic and cetelaidic acids) showed lipidosis. In Canada, the content of docosenoic acid in the total fatty acids of edible oil products is restricted to 5 % or less.

It is well known that the docosenoic acid is one of the major components in fatty acids of certain marine lipids and plant oil such as rapeseed oil (Takagi, 1978). Since saury lipids also contain much docosenoic acid, this species should be caught when the content of docosenoic acid in the lipids is low.

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