Submission date. 16/06/2026

Associate editor's decision after peer review (18/07/2026).
Dear Dr. Gonzalez-Rodriguez:
Manuscript ID NI-2026-0097 entitled "Reproductive tactics and trophic ecology of Ophisternon aenigmaticum in a Neotropical Mexican lake (Synbranchiformes: Synbranchidae)" which you submitted to the Neotropical Ichthyology, has been reviewed. The comments of the reviewer(s) are included at the bottom of this letter.
The reviewers expressed contrasting opinions on the manuscript: Reviewer 1 suggested minor revisions, whereas Reviewer 2 recommended rejection and resubmission. Both provided valuable suggestions that can be addressed through major revisions. Therefore, I invite you to respond to the reviewers' comments and revise your manuscript accordingly.
To revise your manuscript, log into https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/ni-scielo and enter your Author Center, where you will find your manuscript title listed under "Manuscripts with Decisions." Under "Actions," click on "Create a Revision." Your manuscript number has been appended to denote a revision.
You may also click the below link to start the revision process (or continue the process if you have already started your revision) for your manuscript. If you use the below link you will not be required to login to ScholarOne Manuscripts.
*** PLEASE NOTE: This is a two-step process. After clicking on the link, you will be directed to a webpage to confirm. ***
https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/ni-scielo?URL_MASK=677f9a3932c44add8be901d40d243f32
You will be unable to make your revisions on the originally submitted version of the manuscript. Instead, revise your manuscript using a word processing program and save it on your computer. Please also highlight the changes to your manuscript within the document by using the track changes mode in MS Word or by using bold or colored text. Once the revised manuscript is prepared, upload BOTH versions (the tracked and a clean) and submit them through your Author Center.
When submitting your revised manuscript, you will be able to respond to the comments in the space provided. You can use this space to document any changes you make to the original manuscript. In order to expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please reply POINT TO POINT all the suggestions of the reviewers and be as specific as possible in your response to the comments.
IMPORTANT: Your original files are available to you when you upload your revised manuscript. Please delete any redundant files before completing the submission.
Because we are trying to facilitate timely publication of manuscripts submitted to the Neotropical Ichthyology, your revised manuscript should be submitted before 17-Sep-2026. If it is not possible for you to submit your revision by this date, we may have to consider your paper as a new submission.
Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to the Neotropical Ichthyology and I look forward to receiving your revision.
Sincerely,
Dr. Evelyn Habit
Associate Editor, Neotropical Ichthyology
ehabit@udec.cl

Anonymous reviewer #1
Recommendation. Minor Revision
Comments.
It is necessary to expand the statistical analyses in order to make the results more robust and compelling

For instance, statistical tests for seasonal differences: Although average values and trends are reported, no statistical tests (e.g., ANOVA, Kruskal-Wallis, t-test) are applied to determine whether the differences between seasons, sexes, or maturation stages are significant.
Confidence intervals and standard errors: Including confidence intervals or standard errors in the reported values (e.g., GSI, fecundity) would increase transparency and allow for the evaluation of data variability.
Multivariate models: The use of statistical models (e.g., linear regression or mixed-effects models) could help identify predictors of fecundity, GSI, or dietary composition by simultaneously considering biological and environmental variables.
Trophic diversity analysis: Although the diet is highly piscivorous, calculating trophic diversity (e.g., Shannon, Levins) or trophic niche indices could quantify specialization and allow for comparisons with other populations or species

Anonymous reviewer #2
Recommendation. Reject & Resubmit
Comments.
The article number NI-2026-0097 titled "Reproductive tactics and trophic ecology of Ophisternon aenigmaticum in a Neotropical Mexican lake (Synbranchiformes: Synbranchidae)". Study the reproductive and trophic ecology of the swamp eel Ophisternon aenigmaticum in Lake Catemaco, Mexico. The results of the study are very interesting, confirm that O. aenigmaticum at least in lake Catemaco is almost exclusively a piscivore, the population exibith a bimodal reproductive strategy and sex ratios are biased toward males. All this important information that will allows to understand this species better. However, I found within the text a series of issues that may prevent the paper to be accepted as it is (see detail comments in the attached PDF file).
My first big issue with the manuscript is that I found several statements that were not supported by the literature citated, I noted the ones that I detected but I didn't check every single statement against every single citation, so it is probably that there are more instances that this happens along the text.
Several minor comments are made in the PDF version of the review, but I will point out here some of them.
1- Change the title to: "Reproductive tactics and trophic ecology of Ophisternon aenigmaticum (Synbranchiformes: Synbranchidae) in a Neotropical Mexican lake".
2- Many statements in the introduction and discussion need citations.
3- Some citations in the text are missing in the reference list.

Author's Rebuttal Letter (30/07/2026).
Dear Dr. Habit and Reviewers,
We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the constructive comments and valuable suggestions provided by the reviewers regarding our manuscript entitled "Reproductive tactics and trophic ecology of Ophisternon aenigmaticum in a Neotropical Mexican lake (Synbranchiformes: Synbranchidae)" (Manuscript ID: NI-2026-0097).
We have thoroughly reviewed and addressed all comments provided by both reviewers. We have updated the title as suggested, expanded and strengthened our statistical analyses, and carefully revised all literature citations and references throughout the text to ensure complete accuracy and consistency. In accordance with the journal's instructions, we submit two versions of the revised manuscript: one with tracked changes highlighting all modifications made, and a clean version.
Below, we provide a point-by-point response detailing how each comment and suggestion has been addressed in the revised manuscript (with line numbers referring to the clean version). We believe these revisions have significantly improved the quality,

PEER REVIEW FILE

rigor, and clarity of our manuscript, and we hope it is now suitable for publication in Neotropical Ichthyology.
Sincerely,
The Authors

Associate editor's decision after peer review (21/08/2026).
Dear Dr. Gonzalez-Rodriguez:
It is a pleasure to accept your manuscript entitled "Reproductive tactics and trophic ecology of Ophisternon aenigmaticum (Synbranchiformes: Synbranchidae) in a Neotropical Mexican lake" in its current form for publication in the Neotropical Ichthyology.
Congratulations for the acceptance of your article, and be aware on the following topics:
1. Publication Fee
NI will charge a publication fee if none of the co-authors is an active SBI member. This measure is essential to strengthen SBI and thus ensure the continuity of our journal, scientific society, and biannual meetings. SBI is not limited to Brazilians but is open to anyone interested in freshwater and marine Neotropical fishes. More details on SBI are available at https://www.sbi.bio.br/. Please email tesouraria.sbi@gmail.com to confirm whether any of your co-authors is a current SBI member and to activate your SBI membership if needed. Otherwise, if you will cover the publication fee of R$1.000, please inform us at the same email. For authors outside Brazil, the fee will be converted to US dollars based on the official exchange rate on the date of payment. The only exceptions to this fee are invited articles.
2. Science Communication and Social Media
NI actively promotes published articles to both academic colleagues and the general public, including science journalists. To support this, we create social media posts and require images and/or videos of fish related to your work. If your article does not include such images, please send a photo of a representative fish species, preferably alive in its natural habitat. If you do not have your own photo, you may provide a link to an online image, along with the source, author, and, if applicable, authorization for its use. We also publish video summaries of articles in Portuguese on our Instagram (@neoichth). We ask you to designate one author to record a short video using a mobile phone, following the attached instructions. The video should include visual materials (photos, graphics) and a script for subtitles to enhance accessibility. Please email the completed material to our Social Media Editor, Igor Souto-Santos, at icass.ufrj@gmail.com within 30 days.
Additionally, if your article is taxonomic in nature and has been submitted to Zoobank, it is your responsibility to update the manuscript's status on Zoobank once it has been published.
All of the above information and materials are mandatory for the publication of your article, including the scientific dissemination component, which is crucial in the current climate of science denial and misinformation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at neoichth@nupelia.uem.br.
Please send an e-mail to neoichth@nupelia.uem.br within five working days to let us know you are aware of all the important points mentioned above.
Thank you for your fine contribution. On behalf of the Editors of the Neotropical Ichthyology, we look forward to your continued contributions to the Journal.
Sincerely,
Dr. Evelyn Habit
Associate Editor, Neotropical Ichthyology
ehabit@udec.cl
Entire Scoresheet:
Reviewer: 1

Recommendation: Accept
Comments:
In this round of revisions, the authors appear to have appropriately addressed all the comments from the original manuscript. While the revised version is in much better form, I have still identified a few minor issues that can be easily resolved. All of my specific comments are provided in the attached Word file, 'comments to authors.docx'.
Reviewer: 2
Recommendation: Accept
Comments:
Change the letter p for statistical significance to italics (p).
Include the data from the linear regression analysis.
Include citations in the discussion section (noted directly in the manuscript).

Neotropical Ichthyology

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