

Table 1 Meristic characters of *O. niloticus* from Shatt Al-Arab river

Meristic characters	Range	Mean	SD
Lateral Line	35 - 40	38.33	2.89
Scales above the lateral line	5 - 5	5	0
Scales below the lateral line	8 - 9	8.33	0.58
Dorsal fin spines	17 - 18	17.33	0.58
Soft rays	12 - 13	12.33	0.58
Anal fin spines	3 - 3	3	0
Soft rays	9 - 9	9	0
Pectoral fin rays	13 - 15	14	1.00
Pelvic fin rays	6 - 6	6	0
Gill rakers	28 - 31	29.67	1.53