

Table 3 Summary of the variation in the values of vertebral length (VL) and vertebral height (VH) in the 5 regions of the vertebral column of *Coptodon zillii* and *Oreochromis aureus*

Vertebral column parameters	<i>Coptodon zillii</i>	<i>Oreochromis aureus</i>
Vertebral length(VL)	The values are separated in 5 regions; considerable variations in 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> regions; decreasing trend in the 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> regions.	The values have shown a continuous increase in the 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> regions, with steep decline in the 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> regions; not much variations in the values within the regions
Vertebral height(VH)	Similar variations as in VL, but the height of vertebrae is clearly larger than vertebral length; values are slightly less decreasing in the 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> regions.	Similar variations as in VL; height values are larger than those of length values, but they getting less than those of the vertebral length in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> regions.