

Table 2 Mean values (mm) of length (VL) and height (VH) for the successive vertebrae of the vertebral column of *Oreochromis aureus* (ONV, ordinal number of vertebrae; SD=standard deviation)

ONV	VL (SD)	VH (SD)
1	2.5(0.31)	4.38 (0.23)
2	2.5(0.34)	4.38 (0.22)
3	3.12(0.27)	5 (0.28)
4	3.75(0.26)	5.6 (0.26)
5	4.2 (0.24)	5.8 (0.21)
6	4 (0.23)	5.6 (0.25)
7	4.38(0.21)	5.6 (0.25)
8	5 (0.22)	6.25 (0.23)
9	5 (0.26)	6.25 (0.23)
10	5.8 (0.26)	6.87 (0.23)
11	5.6 (0.24)	6.87 (0.27)
12	6.25(0.22)	7.5 (0.26)
13	6.5 (0.23)	8.12 (0.31)
14	7.5 (0.26)	8.12 (0.34)
15	7.5 (0.25)	8.75 (0.26)
16	8.12(0.25)	8.4 (0.24)
17	8.2 (0.23)	7.5 (0.23)
18	8.3 (0.23)	7.5 (0.21)
19	8 (0.23)	6.87 (0.22)
20	7.2 (0.27)	6.87 (0.26)
21	6.25(0.26)	6.87 (0.22)
22	6.25(0.31)	6 (0.26)
23	5.6 (0.34)	5.3 (0.29)
24	5.6 (0.27)	5.2 (0.26)
25	5.6 (0.26)	4.8 (0.24)
26	4.8 (0.24)	4.6 (0.22)
27	4.38(0.23)	4.38 (0.23)
28	4.38(0.21)	4.38 (0.22)