

**On the issue of sex differences in metric characters
in *Anguis colchica* (Nordmann in Demidoff, 1840) (Anguidae, Reptilia)**

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Abstract. The length of the body without a tail (*L.*) and the length of an intact tail (*L. cd.*) were measured in 91 males and 110 females of *Anguis colchica* from the Chamzinsky rayon of the Republic of Mordovia. A comparative analysis of three morphometric characters (*L.*, *L. cd.*, *L. / L. cd.*) of males and females was carried out with the construction of variation series and using the frequency approach. Range of variability of *L.* and *L. cd.* (from 120 to 279 mm) were divided into eight classes, of which, according to body length without the tail, males were represented in seven, females in eight classes; According to the length of the tail, males were represented in six, and females in eight classes. Tail length depended on body length in males ($r = 0.903$, $p < 0.001$, $R^2 = 0.81$) and females ($r = 0.925$, $p < 0.001$, $R^2 = 0.857$). The proportions of males and females with a body length of 159 mm and less in the sample did not differ ($p = 0.337$), in the average size classes (from 160 to 199 mm) males predominated ($p = 0.05$), in size classes greater than 220 mm – females ($p = 0.021$). In the size class 200–219 mm, long-tailed females predominated.

Keywords: Anguidae, Republic of Mordovia, body length without tail, tail length, variation series

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