

ABSTRACT OF THESIS

Mauritania has a wetland of international importance on its Saharan coast: the Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA). Located on either side of the 20th parallel, it runs along the Mauritanian Atlantic coast for more than 180 km and has an area of 12,000 km². The Banc d'Arguin National Park was established in 1976, recognized as a Ramsar site in 1982, and a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1989. In the past, Saint Jean Bay, south of the PNBA, was a kind of estuary through which fresh water flowed. Currently it has become hyper salty. These great changes resulted in the adaptation of several species of the Cichlidae family considered as tropical relics in North Africa and the Sahara. This family is one of the richest in terms of fish species, with up to 3000 species distributed throughout their range. The population of the Imraguen resident of the PNBA throughout the year, distinguish two Cichlidae based on the color of the body, Toumvertel Kahla (Toumvertel "black") and Toumvertel Safra (Toumvertel "yellow"). This work, through the study of biometric characteristics (study of metric and meristic characteristics) and genetics (molecular phylogeny by the sequencing of mitochondrial DNA and nuclear DNA), has mainly studied the phenotypic, morphological and Genetic status of Cichlidae in PNBA waters, thus clarifying the taxonomic status of the two species: *Sarotherodon melanotheron* and *Tilapia guineensis*. In a second phase, this study made it possible to improve the knowledge of the ecobiology of the Cichlidae species, namely their mode of reproduction and their trophic ecology. Examination of sex ratio shows that sex ratio is slightly in favor of males for both species. The breeding season of *S.melanotheron* females was reported from February to August and spawning occurred in April. In males, spawning would occur twice during the year in March and September. In females of *T. guineensis*, the breeding season would be from January to August. While males would breed throughout the year. The PNBA Cichlidae are herbivorous. They prefer phanerogams and certain algae, while Diatoms are incidental prey, gastropods, molluscs and Bivalves are accidental. This diet varies little depending on the season and the size of individuals.