Table 1: List and definition of symbols used in the text and equations with their units.

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| **Parameter name** | **Symbol** | **Units** |
| The number of time periods per year |  | - |
| The hypothetical length at which time *t = 0* | *L0,s* | cm |
| Anabolic rate | *ai* | - |
| Energy expenditure rate (“Brody growth coefficient”) | *μk,s*, *ki,s* | years-1 |
| Anabolism coefficient | *γs* | years-1 |
| Allometric scaling of anabolism and energy expenditure | *ψ* | - |
| Time variation |  | cm |
| Asymptotic maximum length |  | cm |
| The hypothetical time at which *L(t) = 0* | *t0,s* | years |
| Observation coefficient of variation (c.v.) | *cobs* | - |
| Energy expenditure rate standard deviation | *σk,s* | years-1 |
| Time variation standard deviation | *σz* | cm |
| **Data** | **Symbol** | **Units** |
| Time interval |  | weeks |
| Length at time *t* | *L(t)* | cm |
| **Indices** | **Symbol** | **Units** |
| Individual | *i* | - |
| Time | *t* | weeks |
| Sex | *s* | - |