COMMERICAL PRODUCTION OF SPOTTED BABYLON

(*Babylonia areolata* Link, 1807) SEEDS

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ABSTRACT

Mass production of spotted babylon seed was carried out at Chanthaburi Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Center during January to May 2004. The objective of this study was to find out suitable foods, survival rate, growth and developmental technology on nursing in order to obtain the highest survival rate from veliger larvae to 1 cm in shell length. Cost of seed production were calculated in order to advise and extend the farmers for nursing and culture on spotted babylon from this scale.

Egg capsules were transported from Trat Coastal Aquaculture Station in plastic bags. Amount of 2,000 egg capsules were treated with 25 ppm povidone iodine for 10 minutes and put them in the 6 basktets and 3 plastic tanks. After hatching the veliger larvae were stocked in 6 tanks (200 liters in capacity) and were transferred to the new tanks. The total number was 992,150 veliger larvae and fed either *Tetraselmis* sp. or *Chaetoceros* sp. or dried *Spirulina*. Dried *Spirulina* and frozen adult *Artemia* were suitable foods for the settled juveniles stage (7-15 days old) and frozen adult *Artemia* was food for early juvenile stage (16-30 days old or until a shell length of 0.5 cm). Frozen adult *Artemia* and trash fish were fed for 31-40 days old juveniles and trash fish was suitable food for 41-90 days old juvenile (>0.5 cm in shell length).

Chlorinated of seawater was used for water system and controled the quality of seawater during nursing period by changing the new tanks of veliger larvae everyday and more than 100% of seawater was changed in two times once a day for juvenile stage, that reared in 300 liters plastic tanks in capacity and covered with plastic sheet to prevent escape of juveniles.

The result showed that the highest survival rate of the seed from veliger larvae stage (1 day old) to 60 days old was 11.2% with the average was 9.82%. After the larvae grew up to 90 days, the total number of 94,771 juveniles (≥ 1 cm in shell length) were investigated at 97.02% of 97,676 juveniles. The total yield (fix and variable cost) of 94,771 larvae was 57.02 stangs and 24.74 stangs without labour cost per larvae.

**Key word** : Spotted babylon, Nursing, Commercial Production