REPRODUCTIVE PATTERNS IN MURICIDAE
(PROSOBRANCHIA: NEOGASTROPODA)

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ABSTRACT

Illeontogeneny from the time of deposition of eggs in capsules until the larvae metamorphose and become juveniles is reviewed for mureid gastropods. The model used for the modes of development, can be applied to families, genera and perhaps to species. Conspecific variation in the mode of development is known as poecilogony. Variation in mode of development in geographically separated populations of three species of the genus Chioneus indicates either poecilogony or the existence of more than one species. However, the critical review of poecilogony by Hoagland & Roberson (1988) shows that it is difficult to prove which alternative is the correct one.

In at least two species of the genus Chioneus and one species of Ocenebra, most females possess a penis. The function of the penis is still open to debate. It is speculated that these species are either protandric hermaphrodites or just possessing secondary sexual characters.