

**LABORATORY SPAWNING AND LARVAL DEVELOPMENT OF
BABYLONIA SPIRATA (L.) (NEOGASTROPODA :BUCCINIDAE)**

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ABSTRACT

Adult *Babylonia spirata* were collected from Porto Novo coastal waters, southeast coast of India. Spawning and larval development were observed under laboratory conditions. Peak spawning was noticed during post monsoon season (January to March) and extended up to May (summer season). Each *B. spirata* laid 24-35 transparent, vasiform egg capsules attached to the substratum. Each capsule contained about 900 eggs in a jelly like fluid. The bilobed veliger larvae hatched out after 10 days. The larvae were fed with mixed plankton and metamorphosed after 19 days. The juveniles were fed with boiled clam-meat and were reared until 28 days. Then they all died. The cause of this mortality is discussed.