

EXPERIMENTAL CULTURE OF *CHICOREUS VIRGINEUS* (RODING, 1798)

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ABSTRACT

Spawning and an experimental larval culture studies were carried out for 170 days with an economically important muricid gastropod, *Chicoreus virgineus*. Spawning occurred during February and March. The vasiform capsules were laid in clusters. Capsule structure and fecundity were compared with other muricid gastropods. Larvae hatched out 22-25 days after spawning, mostly as non-pelagic juveniles. The size ranged from 1.21 to 1.34 mm. The juveniles were fed with both live and non-live feeds. Bivalve spats and newly settled barnacles were found to be more suitable for a period of about 90 days, and bivalves, *Meretrix* sp. were given for further culture as a regular diet.