

**SEA-FARMING OF MARINE GASTROPODS WITH EMPHASIS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF THE MURICID *CHICOREUS RAMOSUS* (L., 1758)**

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**ABSTRACT.**

Culture of *C. ramosus* using the approach of sea-farming is evaluated in terms of growth rate, sediment preference, settling, migration and other behavioural aspects, and combined with the existing literature on sea-farming of marine gastropods. Worldwide *Trochus niloticus*, *Strombus gigas* and *Haliohs* spp., are the preferred marine gastropods in culture. They have several biological similarities with *C. ramosus* which makes it a potential candidates for sea-farming. The success of enhancement programmes depends to some extent on a proper definition of objectives. If the aim is strictly commercial then it is necessary to obtain a higher market value than at present for the meat of *C. ramosus*, to promote and sell younger snails, to fence in released juveniles, to improve rearing techniques and lower the costs of producing juveniles. If the aim is solely restocking then it should be noted that the migrational habits of *C. ramosus* would facilitate dispersal of the stock, but release sites should be carefully considered to avoid introducing this carnivore in areas of other cultured molluscs. Restocking should be combined with a management programme using sanctuaries to protect the release sites against over-fishing. Restrictions on size of harvestable snails may not be necessary due to the ability of juveniles to hide.