

**FECUNDITY, SIZE OF EGG CAPSULES, AND HATCHED VELIGERS OF
CHICOREUS RAMOSUS IN CAPTIVITY BROODSTOCKS**

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ABSTRACT

Adult *Chicoreus ramosus* obtained from nature and hatchery reared specimens were used as broodstock. The hatchery-reared snails began spawning at the age of 2 years, when they were 14-16 cm in shell length. The newly mature snails had significantly lower fecundity than the older ones. The number of egg capsules laid by each females ranged from 150 to 1 595 in the newly mature, hatchery-reared group, and from 2035 to 4438 in the wild group. The mean number of hatched veligers from each female ranged from 281 to 636 veligers per capsule. The mean size of hatched veligers ranged from 685 to 754 microns, which was not highly related to either the capsule or spawner size, though it showed a trend of increasing number of veligers with increasing capsule sizes.