INGESTION OF CHICOREUS RAMOSUS LARVAE BY SUSPENSION FEEDING BIVALVES

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ABSTRACT
Ingestion of veliger larvae (competent and younger stages) was tested in a flume tank. Larvae of Chicoreus ramosus were strongly negative geotactic, and would avoid ingestion by the bivalves Modiolus philippinarum and Isognomon isognomon by swimming high in the water column. Water speed in the siphonal canals of the bivalves was measured and compared to the swimming speed of the gastropod veligers. Veligers would only be inhaled when they were a few mm from the inhalant siphons. An excretion mechanism that releases gastropod larvae from Modiolus philippinarum is described.