

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF *HEMIFUSUS PUGILINUS* (BORN)  
(GASTROPODA: MELONGENIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

Monthly samples of the neogastropod *Hemifusus pugilinus* were made during a year off Parangipettai, southern India. The sex ratio (M:F) was 1:1 throughout the year except in March and July. Maximum Gonado-Somatic Index was found in January and February for both sexes. *H. pugilinus* is a continuous breeder. However, a peak spawning season occurred during the post monsoon and summer (February to May). The egg capsules of *H. pugilinus* are pouch shaped, compressed, and attached to a substratum. The exit hole is oblong and measures about 2-2.5 mm. The number of eggs per capsule varied in laboratory spawned (23-120 eggs) and egg masses from nature (41-138 eggs). The number of capsules per egg mass varied in the laboratory (38-80 capsules) and from nature (8-215 capsules). Juveniles hatch out after 40-45 days. The ranges of length and width of the juveniles were 1.400-1.600 mm and 1.040-1.100 mm respectively.