

MATURITY OF THE SECOND GENERATION OF HATCHERY-CULTURED  
MURICID SNAIL (*CHICOREUS RAMOSUS* (L., 1758))

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ABSTRACT

Muricid snails, *Chicoreus ramosus*, reared in Prachuap Khiri Khan hatchery spawned for the first time at the age of two years. The second generation raised in a shallow fiberglass tank was sexually mature at an age of one year, with sizes ranging from 54.2 to 98.4 mm in shell length and 19.05 to 85.0 g in total weight. Three snails were laying eggs during November 1995 to January 1996. Spawning duration of each spawner was 22, 37 and 58 days respectively. The number of egg capsules were 401, 595 and 713, respectively. Capsules measured from 7.7 to 11.0 mm in height and 3.0 to 3.9 mm in apical plate width. They are smaller than those of older snails. Size of newly hatched veligers ranged from 410 to 775  $\mu\text{m}$ , with a mean of 698  $\mu\text{m}$  while those from older broods had a mean size of 715  $\mu\text{m}$ . The veligers obtained from these young parents exhibited normal development through metamorphosis, and early juvenile growth was comparable with that of older spawners.