

GROWTH OF GIANT CLAM, *TRIDACNA SQUAMOSA* LAMARCK UNDER
LABORATORY AND NATURAL CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT

The giant clam, *Tridacna squamosa* Lamarck, 1819, is the most important species of tridacnid clam being cultured in Thailand. Growth of juvenile *T. squamosa* was studied under laboratory (outdoors) and natural conditions for 14 months at Phuket Marine Biological Center, Thailand. The initial mean size was 73.1 mm in both groups. The clams obtained a mean increment of 43.6 and 67.2 mm shell length yr⁻¹ under laboratory and natural conditions respectively. Growth conformed to the von Bertalanffy equation assuming $L_{\infty} = 400$ mm. The curvature parameter (k) of clams was significantly different between the two groups. The k-parameter values were 0.01165 and 0.023694 in the laboratory and the nature group respectively. The clams grew better under natural conditions than under laboratory conditions.