

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF THAI FRESHWATER PEARL MUSSEL
HYRIOPSIS (LIMNOSCAPHA) MYERSIANA (LEA, 1856)

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ABSTRACT

The gonadal development of *Hyriopsis (Limnoscapha) myersiana* (Lea, 1856) an economically important freshwater pearl mussel in Thailand was investigated by monthly histological examination of mussels collected from the natural habitat for 1 year. The gonad development was divided into 6 stages: Prefollicular, initial, developing, mature, partially spawned, and spent. The dioecious mussels had a sex ratio of 1 male to 0.91 female. Reproduction was observed from May to October. Formation of marsupia in rearing condition showed the same period of reproduction as in the wild population. On average, marsupia were formed 18.9 times in 1 year. The incubation period of fertilized eggs inside marsupia was 5-9 days. About 11% of a total of 599 fishes carried encysted glochidia. Cysts were found in 18 species, mainly in the family Cyprinidae. The prevalence of infested fishes was highest in *Hampala macrolepidota*, *Mystus nemurus*, and *Puntius schwanenfeldi* respectively. Infestation occurred in gills, especially gill filaments, more than on other parts of the fish body.