

LIFE CYCLE OF CULTURED PHARAOH CUTTLEFISH,  
*SEPIA PHAR,AONIS* EHRENBERG, 1831

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ABSTRACT

The pharaoh cuttlefish, *Sepia pharaonis*, were cultured in laboratory. Eggs were deposited as single eggs, round in shape and white in colour. The incubation period was 14.3 days at 28°C. Hatchlings were benthic. Mean mantle length was 0.77 cm and body weight 0.18 g. Hatchlings fed on mysids and postlarvae of penaeid shrimp. The pharaoh cuttlefish were sexually mature after 90 days and mating was observed since then. Daily growth rate was 1.37% in mantle length and 3.40% in body weight. Spawning occurred at the age of 110 days and one female laid from 50 to 3000 eggs. The average life span was 149.4 days due to mortality of both sex after spawning. Largest final size was 16.20 cm mantle length and 368.48 g body weight. Maximum life span was 271 days. Early maturity at a small size in culture condition revealed the alternative life strategy as short generation mode.