

SPAWNING AND LARVAL DEVELOPMENT OF *RAPANA*
RAPIFORMIS (BORN) (MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA)

R. Ramesh

*Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Annamalai University,
Parangipettai - 608 502, India.*

ABSTRACT

Live *Rapana rapiformis* and their egg capsules were collected from Parangipettai coastal waters. Spawning and larval development were observed under laboratory conditions. The egg capsules are of ampulliform type with embryos suspended in a jelly like fluid. The wild collected and laboratory laid capsules differ slightly in size and number of embryos. The veliger larvae hatched out after 24-26 days. The larvae were fed with mixed phytoplankton culture. Metamorphosis occurred after 23-24 days. Fresh bivalve tissue was given as feed. The juveniles were reared successfully for 90 days.