GROWTH AND GONAD DEVELOPMENT OF BABYLON SNAIL *BABYOLNIA SPIRA TA* (L.) INCULTURE

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ABSTRACT

Babylonia spirata collected from South Coast of West Java ranged in shell length from 23.0 to 49.0 mm. The Gonad Maturity Index increased with size, while the Ponderal Index displayed a complex trend. There was good correlation between weight and length (or width) of shell. The best cor- relation was found between total weight and shell length ($r^2 = 98.3$). The curves of weight- length correlation tended to be steep during the acclimatisation period. The body weight and gonad weight increased significantly after the first week of the acclimatisation period. The weight increase of snails fed in the laboratory was better than found in the field indicating that snails may have starved in nature.