

# **BIOLOGICAL SPAWNING CHARACTERISTICS OF BABYLON SNAIL (BABYLONIA AREOLATA)**

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Babylon snail is gonochoristic with internal fertilisation. Sex ratio of adult snails varied from 1:1.38 to 1:2.65. After 7 months of culture, the snails reached a shell length of 35-42 mm and spawned first time. Adult snails cultured in cement ponds deposited egg capsules year-round with 2 peaks of spawning in March and July. Vasiform transparent egg capsules were laid during nighttime and attached to the sandy bottom or coarse substratum. Each breeder deposited from 18 to 75 (average 38) egg capsules. Egg capsules measured 30.6 x 9.9 mm in length on average and contained about 743 eggs in a jelly-like fluid. About 6 days after spawning, bilobed veliger larvae hatched out. Veliger larvae spent about 12 to 14 days in the free-swimming larval stage and metamorphosed to crawling juveniles after 26 to 18 days. Fertilisation and hatching rates were 83 and 90% on average respectively.