

# FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CULTURE OF COCKLE *ANADARA TROSCHELI* DUNKER

Tandavanitj, Sanchai  
*Ornamental Fishes Research and Aquarium Institute ,  
Department of Fisheries , Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900,  
Thailand*

*Anadara troscheli* is one of the most common cockles in Thailand. It is distributed along the Andaman coastline and some areas in the Gulf of Thailand. In order to establish and improve culture of the species, basic information concerning movement behaviour and growth rate are essential. Movement behaviour of the cockles is the main obstacle for transplanted brood-stock to new culture areas. Movement experiments of two cockle species, *A. troscheli* and *A. nodifera*, were carried out in tanks and recorded by VDO equipment. *A. troscheli* did not move and they just buried in the sediment, while *A. nodifera* moved forward around the tank. Growth rate was estimated monthly in *A. troscheli* from Sapam Bay, Phuket Island, sampled during January-November, 1997. Average shell increment was 0.47 mm/month and the weight increased 1.49 g/month. In conclusion, *A. troscheli* is feasible for culture since it will not move out from culture area in contrast to *A. nodifera*. It is a big species and the weight increment is higher than for other cockles cultured for the same period of time.