

## Tagging and recapture experiments in the Indian sacred chank, *Turbinella pyrum* along the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay, India

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Concomitant to the heavy demand of the sacred chank, *Turbinella pyrum*, several methods of large-scale exploitation, including bottom trawling, take place in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar region, leading to depletion of chank resources. The natural growth of the chank is not known. Tagging and recapture experiments were therefore conducted. Chanks were brought to the laboratory, reared in a flow-through system, and conditioned before tagging with 'Letro' labels attached to shells with Araldite. The measured and tagged chanks were released at specific sites in Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay. Tagging and recapture data from 1994 to 1997 showed that in the natural habitat the increase of average Maximum Shell Diameter (MSD) ranged from 6.6 to 7.5 mm. Out of 1046 chanks tagged, the recovery ranged from 8.7 to 11.5 %.

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