

Cria de Larvas del Caracol Rosado, *Strombus gigas* Linnaeus en Dos Sistemas Diferentes

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ABSTRACT

Egg masses of pink conch, *Strombus gigas* Linnaeus, were collected in Punta Brava, Quintana Roo, México, during the spawning season in 1986. After hatching, larvae were reared in the aquaculture laboratory at CINVESTAV-IPN-Unidad-Mérida, under two different closed culturing systems. In one, sea water was recirculating at the rate of 800 ml/min; the other was a static system, without recirculation. Tanks of different capacities and forms were used in the latter system. In both systems the initial population density was 200 larvae/l. Larvae were raised at a constant temperature of 28°C and were fed with the unicellular algae *Isochrysis* aff. *galvana* (Tahiti) and *Tetraselmis chuii*. In the recirculation system conch larvae reached metamorphosis in 29 days with a survival rate of 2.5%. Metamorphosis was induced using red algae *Laurencia* sp. In the static system larvae did not reach metamorphosis. Two mortality patterns were observed: one low and chronic, the other acute. In conclusion, the recirculating system performed better based on observations of lower mortality and faster growth. Also, less maintenance was needed. However, further experiments are necessary to consider the effects of water quality as well as nutrition.

KEYWORDS: larval culture, *Strombus gigas*, pink conch.