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Author(s)	Ruangpanit, N.; Maneewongsa, S.; Tattanon, T.; Kraisingdeja, P.
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acid composition and total lipid content of the diets and of *P. monodon* fed with these diets were assessed.

Reproductive performance was evaluated in terms of number of spawnings, fecundity, egg and nauplii production and hatching rate of eggs. Broodstock response was best in Diet 1 and comparable with the control, followed by Diets 3 and 4, and was poorest in Diet 2.

Broodstock performance appeared to be related to the fatty acid pattern of the diet. All pelleted diets contained similar levels of total lipids. However, there were differences in amounts of important polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA): 20:4 $\omega$ 6 (arachidonic), 20:5 $\omega$ 3 (eicosapentaenoic) and 22:6 $\omega$ 3 (docosahexaenoic) acids. The fatty acid profiles of Diets 1 and 3 more closely resemble the profile of maturing ovaries of wild *P. monodon*; the PUFA content of these diets and  $\omega$ 3/ $\omega$ 6 ratios were higher compared to Diets 2 and 4. Diet 2, showing the poorest profile among the diets, was low in  $\omega$ 3/ $\omega$ 6 ratio and contained minimal levels of PUFA.

### Study on the Larval Rearing of *Penaeus merguensis*

Niwes Ruangpanit, Sujin Maneewongsa,  
Thanan Tattanon and Prakir Kraisingdeja

National Institute of Coastal Aquaculture  
Kaoseng, Songkhla, Thailand

Nursing postlarvae of *Penaeus merguensis* in the same tank as rearing always results in low survival rates, around 30%. One reason is that stocking density for P<sub>1</sub> is too high for postlarvae grown to P<sub>20</sub> size. Another reason may be that it is impossible to sufficiently clean a tank containing culture stock. In order to overcome the first constraint and to test whether the second is valid, rearing of nauplii to early postlarval stage was done in one tank, then early postlarvae were moved to another tank for nursing to P<sub>20</sub>.

Rearing was done in rectangular, concrete tanks (5 m  $\times$  5 m  $\times$  2m) of 50 ton capacity, with an initial stocking density of 20-40 nauplii/l. *Chaetoceros* sp. at a density of 3-4  $\times$  10<sup>4</sup> cell/ml, or *Tetraselmis* sp. at 1-3  $\times$  10<sup>4</sup> cell/ml were fed to zoea stage, then rotifer was given when the larvae metamorphosed to mysis stage. Within 8-10 days, when all of the larvae metamorphosed to postlarval stage, they were transferred to the nursing tank. Postlarval nursing was done in rectangular, concrete tanks with a capacity of 12 or 30 tons. The stocking rate was 12 postlarvae/l in the 12-ton tanks and 8 postlarvae/l in the 30-ton tanks. The early postlarvae were fed constantly with brine shrimp, and the older postlarvae were fed 4-5 times daily with squid meat. Fifty to seventy percent of seawater was exchanged, and siphoning of food remnants was done daily. The postlarvae grew to an intermediate size (1.0-2.5 cm total length) for stocking in grow-out ponds within 12 to 20 days.

The results of rearing in 50-ton tanks with an initial stocking density of 20-25 postlarvae/l, 25-30 postlarvae/l and 30-40 postlarvae/l produced survival rates of 74.3%, 63.6% and 47.6%, respectively. The survival rate for nursing in 12-ton

tanks, with stocking density of 12 postlarvae/l was 85.0% and for 30-ton tanks with stocking density of 8 postlarvae/l was 61.7%. These results seem to indicate that the rearing and nursing of shrimp would be more efficient if carried out in separate tanks.

### Characterization of Ovarian Maturation Stages in Wild Unablated *Penaeus monodon*

Josefa D. Tan, Rosario A. Pudadera  
and Evelyn Grace de Jesus

Aquaculture Department  
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center  
P.O. Box 256, Iloilo City, Philippines

At least five wild-caught *Penaeus monodon* from various maturation stages (initially classified *in vivo* as 0, I, II, III, IV, V) were measured, weighed and dissected for histological and histochemical studies. The anterior and posterior parts of the thoracic and abdominal regions of the ovary were sampled and stained with Mallory trichrome, alcian blue-periodic acid-Schiff (AB-PAS) and Sudan black.

Results showed that the ovary is composed of the ovarian wall and its extensions, zone of proliferation, follicle cell layer and oocytes. The proliferating cells are less than 10  $\mu$ m, have thin rims of cytoplasm, and increase in size as maturation proceeds. Based on histology, the stages were finally classified into groups (1) previtellogenic (stage 0), (2) vitellogenic (stages I and II), (3) cortical rod (stages III and IV), and (4) spent (stage V). The previtellogenic group consists only of perinucleolar oocytes (46-72  $\mu$ m) which are stained negatively with AB-PAS and Sudan black. Oocytes bigger than 55  $\mu$ m are enveloped by a single layer of follicle cells. The vitellogenic group is composed mostly of yolky oocytes (121-211  $\mu$ m) with the following cytoplasmic inclusions: small granules of glycoproteins, medium-size globules of lipoglycoproteins, and few large lipid droplets. The cortical rod group consists mostly of yolky oocytes (288-408  $\mu$ m) with additional rod-like bodies which contain acid and basic mucopolysaccharides but no lipid. The presence of cortical rods is a characteristic feature of mature penaeid ovaries. The spent group is similar to the previtellogenic group but contains some yolky oocytes, thicker follicle cell layers, or irregularly shaped perinucleolar oocytes. The GSI ranges of the four groups are 0.899-1.937, 3.099-7.598, 5.631-12.000 and 1.848-2.919, respectively.

### The Use of Haptophyceae in Rearing Experiments on Larval *Penaeus orientalis*

Ming Ren Li, Bo Zhong Bian and Lin Ma

Micro-Algae Culture Center, Department of Fisheries  
Shandong College of Oceanography  
Qingdao, China

The food value of five clones of Haptophyceae, *Coccolithus pelagicus*, *Dicrateria zhanjiangensis*, *Isochrysis galbana*,