larvae hatched almost synchronously within one hour after darkness and the emerging larvae (Plate 5) rotated in a clockwise direction.

**Larvae:** The newly hatched larvae had a total length ranging from 5.1 to 5.3 mm, having a very small yolk-sac and were positively phototactic (Plate 6). The body was transparent and the mouth gape measured 150 to 160 µm. First feeding started at 10 to 12 hrs after hatching. Initially, the larvae were fed with enriched rotifer *Brachionus rotundiformis* and subsequently with enriched *B. plicatilis*, copepod nauplii and artemia nauplii. By the 7th day, the larvae showed slight red pigmentation and measured 8 to 9 mm. By the 14th day, the larvae reached a pre-settlement stage with a total length of 10 mm and metamorphosed to juveniles in 35-40 days.

*(Dr. Rema Madhu, Dr. K. Madhu and Dr. G. Gopakumar, Mariculture Division)*

**World record of the rare female fairy basslet from the west coast of India**

Specimens of the rare fairy basslet, *Sacura boulengeri* (Heemstra, 1973), known otherwise as ‘Boulenger’s anthias’ belonging to the subfamily Anthiinae (Family Serranidae) were collected from trawler and boat seine landings off Neendakara, Mumbai and Mangalore situated on the west coast of India. This is the third record of the occurrence of this species worldwide as the specimens were known previously only from six adult males recorded from the Gulf of Oman (5 nos.) and off Sindh, Pakistan (1 no.). The adult specimen of *Sacura boulengeri*, collected from the trawl catches off Neendakara forms the first female specimen ever recorded globally.

*(Marine Biodiversity Division)*

**High density grow-out of sand lobsters**

A semi-enclosed intensive system with substrate bed trickling filter was successfully developed for high density grow-out of the sand lobster *Thenus orientalis* at Kovalam Field Laboratory,