

Seed production of mud crab, *Scylla serrata*

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The adult mud crabs (*Scylla serrata*) collected from the crab fishermen were used in the observation of mating behaviour. The facilities installed at Pitipana fisheries station for the back yard type seed production of *P. monodon* were utilised to rear the crab larvae. The zoea larvae obtained through the wild caught ovigerous crabs were successfully reared upto crab stage. It took around 30 days for the appearance of 1st crab stage from the 1st zoea stage. The water temperature varied between 28^o - 30^o C. The salinity of rearing water was maintained at or near 25ppt. The survival to 1st crab stage was very low. Increase of larval survival by improvements to water quality, feeding regime and reducing cannibalism is discussed.