

**SEX DETERMINATION AND GONAD  
MATURATION OF HUMPHEAD WRASSE,  
*Cheilinus undulatus* IN CAPTIVITY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The aim in this present study was to identify the sex and gonad maturation of humphead wrasse, *Cheilinus undulatus* in captivity based on body sizes and histological assessment. A total of 65 tails *C. undulatus* broodfish were reared in 150 tonnes cylindrical fiber-reinforced plastic (FRP) tanks with water circulation system throughout six months. *C. undulatus* were fed until satiation once daily, six times a week with prey fish (*Sardinella* sp.) enriched with 0.1 ml pure cod liver oil and squid. Growth parameters and morphological measurement, such as presence of eyeline, shape of genital papillae and hump on head, of the *C. undulatus* as well as observation on gonad maturation were carried out. This finding reveled in captivity, female of *C. undulatus* (n=13) attained an average body weight of 2.78 kg and total length 47.10 cm meanwhile male of *C. undulatus* attained larger body weight (14.62 kg) and total length exceeding size of female (89.30 cm). A total of 51 tails of *C. undulatus* were not be identified sex with average body weight and total length were recorded as 2.75 kg and 45.90 cm, respectively. The length-weight relationship showed that *C. undulatus* performed an isometric growth pattern ( $b = 2.9487$ ) with condition factor of 0.23 and 0.24 for male and female, respectively. Morphologically, female was identified with the alleviation of the hump on its head and the visibility of eyeline behind its eyes which was not seen in male *C. undulatus*. Histological observation on gonad had confirmed the sex of the female of *C. undulatus* with the presence of primary-growth stage oocytes (O1), cortical-alveolus stage (O2) and vitellogenic stage (O3) was discovered in mature active female. On the other hand, only primary-growth stage oocytes (O1) was detected in another sampled of female *C. undulatus*. Unfortunately, no gametes were obtained from male and unknown sex of *C. undulatus* for further examination. In conclusion, sex of *C. undulatus* in captivity can be differentiated through body size and morphological features, thus brood fish management can be done effectively in future.

## **ABSTRAK**

### **Penentuan jantina dan kematangan gonad Mameng, *Cheilinus undulatus* di dalam kurungan**

Tujuan penyelidikan ini adalah untuk mengenal pasti jantina dan kematangan gonad ikan mameng, *Cheilinus undulatus* berdasarkan berat badan dan panjang keseluruhan ikan. Sejumlah 65 ekor induk mameng diternak dalam tangki bertetulang gentian berkapasiti 150 ton dalam sistem kitaran air sepanjang penyelidikan selama enam bulan. Induknya diberi makan sehingga cukup sehari sekali, dan enam kali seminggu dengan ikan kecil (*Sardinella sp.*) yang diperkaya dengan 0.1 ml minyak ikan kod dan juga sotong. Pertumbuhan parameter, pengukuran induk ikan seperti garisan memanjang di mata, bentuk dan benjolan di kepala dan pemerhatian terhadap pematangan gonad telah dijalankan. Hasil yang didapati adalah ikan betina *C. undulatus* ( $n=13$ ) mencapai purata berat badan 2.78 kg and purata panjang keseluruhan 47.10 cm manakala ikan jantan pula mencapai berat badan (14.62 kg) dan jumlah kepanjangan (89.30 cm) melebihi ikan betina. Ikan yang selebihnya sebanyak 51 ekor tidak dapat dikenalpasti jantina dengan purata berat badan dan panjang keseluruhan yang dicatat masing-masing adalah sebanyak 2.75 kg dan 45.90 cm. Perkaitan panjang dan berat menunjukkan pertumbuhan isometric ( $b= 2.9487$ ) dan faktor kondisi ikan masing-masing untuk ikan jantan dan betina adalah 0.23 dan 0.24. Dari segi luaran, ikan betina boleh dikesan dengan kebenjolan bonggol di kepala ikan dan garisan memanjang di mata ikan di mana tidak terdapat pada ikan jantan. Pemeriksaan histologi gonad ikan juga mengesahkan jantina ikan tersebut dan peringkat awal oosit utama (O1), peringkat alveoli-kortikal (O2) dan peringkat vitelogenik (O3) telah dikesan di ikan betina yang matang dan aktif. Sebaliknya, hanya peringkat awal oosit utama (O1) dikesan pada ikan betina yang matang tetapi tidak aktif. Akan tetapi, tiada gamet dapat diperoleh dari ikan jantan dan ikan yang tidak diketahui jantina untuk pemeriksaan selanjutnya. Sebagai kesimpulan, jantina *C. undulatus* yang diternak dapat dibezakan dari berat badan dan ciri-ciri luaran dan seterusnya meningkatkan keberkesanan dalam pengurusan induk ikan.