

PRELIMINARY TRIAL ON LABORATORY-INDUCED SPAWNING
OF LOKAN POLYMESODA EROSA (SOLANDER 1786)

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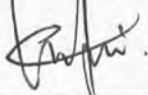
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I declare that this dissertation is the result of my own independent work except where otherwise state.

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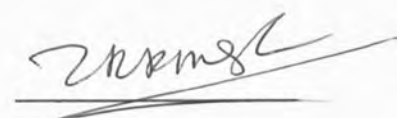
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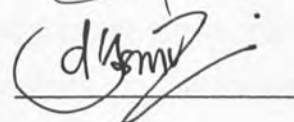
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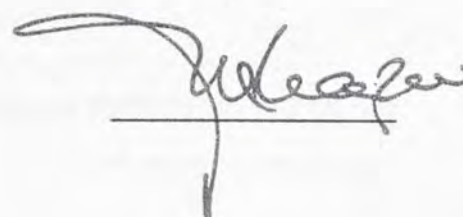
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ABSTRACT

Kajian ini diadakan untuk mengenalpasti saiz dan kadar eksploitasi, saiz kematangan, dan percubaan peneluran aruhan terhadap lokan di dalam makmal. Tempat kajian ini terletak di Salut Bay, Kota Kinabalu (06° 06'05.5" N, 116° 09'58.5" E). Pensampelan mengadakan pada Jun-oktober 2008. Yang pertama, titik permulaan kajian terhadap lokan bermula secara temuduga daripada seorang penduduk tempatan dan menyertai aktiviti pengutipan lokan di tempat kajian. Terdapat kadar lokan dikutipkan ialah dua hingga tiga kali setiap minggu sepanjang masa kajian diadakan. Masa pengumpulan berkadar langsung dengan tempoh pasang surut dan qamari, dan frekuensi mengutip mungkin bertambah dengan permintaan pasaran. Setiap kutipan memerlukan tiga atau empat jam masa dengan "tangapan setiap unit daya" (CPUE) 400 hingga 1000 individu lokan. Secara umumnya, lokan saiz kecil (<10 mm kelebaran cangkerang) bakal dilepaskan. Berdasarkan pemerhatian secara histologi, saiz kematangan untuk lokan adalah kira-kira 42 mm dengan kelebaran cangkerang. Dua percubaan peneluran aruhan memaparkan hasil negatif, walaupun semua pembiak baka terselamat semasa penyesuaian tempoh (34 dan 35 hari masing-masing) kecuali dua individu telah mati dari percubaan kedua. Selanjutnya bersifat histologi pemerhatian telah dikendalikan untuk menentukan peringkat kematangan pembiak baka. Keputusan berdasarkan enam spesimen (40 hingga 49 mm) daripada percubaan pertama, dan empat spesimen (50 hingga 59 mm) daripada percubaan kedua menunjukkan yang semua berada di peringkat kematangan kecuali dua spesimen iaitu satu menunjukkan fasa aktif yang lewat (Spesimen 3, 41.8 mm) manakala satu menunjukkan fasa peneluran separuh (Spesimen 6, 53.9 mm). Ini mencadangkan bahawa penyesuaian rawatan untuk pembiak baka telah berjaya, bagaimanapun, mereka menahankan gamet akibat alam mereka tersinkronisasi peneluran kelakuan. Penemuan-penemuan bagi kajian menyediakan satu gambaran jelas bagaimana lokan adalah sedang dituai dan juga kadar eksploitasi bagi sumber. Keputusan terdorong peneluran cubaan berkhidmat seperti satu perbandingan untuk kajian-kajian masa hadapan.



ABSTRACT

This research was conducted to determine the size and rate of exploitation, to determine size of maturity, and possibility of laboratory-induced spawning of lokan (*Polymesoda erosa*). The study site is nearby Salut Bay in Kota Kinabalu (06° 06'05.5" N, 116° 09'58.5" E). Sampling was conducted from June-October 2008. Baseline information about the resource was obtained primarily through interview with the locals, and actual participation at the collecting sites. Lokans were collected every week during study period, with a frequency of two to three times per week. The timing of the collecting coincided with tidal and lunar period, and the frequency of collecting might increase with market demand. Each collecting trip between three to four hours, with a catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 400 to 1000 individuals of lokans, in general, very small size (<1 cm shell width) lokans are not collected. Based on histological observations, the size of maturity of the lokan was determined to be approximately 42 mm shell width. The two induced spawning trials gave negative results, although all the broodstock survived the conditioning period (34 and 35 days, respectively) except two were dead from Trial 2. A further histological observation was conducted to determine the maturity stage of the broodstocks. The results based on six specimens (40 to 49 mm) from Trial 1, and four specimens (50 to 59 mm) from Trial 2 showed that all, except two specimens were in the ripe phase. Of the two (which were not in the ripe phase), one showed late active phase (Specimen 3, 41.8 mm), whilst the other showed partially-spawned phase (Specimen 6, 53.9 mm). This indicates that although broodstock conditioning treatment was successful, however, they retained their gametes due to their natural synchronized spawning behaviour. Findings of this study provide a clear picture how lokan are being harvested and also the exploitation rate of the resource. Results of the induced spawning trials serve as basic information for future studies.



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LIST OF SYMBOLS, UNIT AND ABBREVIATIONS

%	percentage
°	Degree
°C	degree Celsius
'	minute
"	second
≤	less than or equal to
≥	more than or equal to
≈	Approximately to
N	North
E	East
mm	millimeter
Cm	centimeter
μm	micrometer
km	kilometer
mL	milliliter
L	Liter
X	multiply
a.m	Ante Meridiem
ADG	adipogranular
GPS	Global Positioning System device
VCT	vesicular connective tissue
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Polymesoda erosa*

Solander is the first person who described this species from Indo-Pacific under a different genus (on it is known today) as *Vunus erosa* in 1786. Later a subgenus was introduced as *Geloina* by Gray in 1842. Present study, two synonym name of *Polymesoda (Geloina) erosa* and *Polymesoda (Geloina) coaxans* are in used.

Generally, *Polymesoda erosa* are widely distributed in Southeast Asia Countries (Carpenter and Niem, 1998). In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, this marine organism can be commonly found in Salut Bay Sulaman Road, with the local name, known as “lokan” or commonly coined as geloina (Carpenter and Niem, 1998).

Common geloina is a brackish water mangrove clam which lives semi-infaunally on the soft sediment that accumulated around the roots of the mangrove trees



(Carpenter and Niem, 1998). In the mangrove forest of Salut Bay in Sabah, this clam can be found living together with other invertebrates such as mangrove crabs and other gastropods like *Telescopium* sp. (Ingole *et al.*, 2002). This species was closely related with other bivalve molluscs such as clams, scallops, oysters and mussels which belong to the class Bivalvia (Gosling, 2003).

Lokans are considered one of the popular commercially exploited marine organisms in Sabah. According to Morton (1976), it is a sturdy animal and has excellent attributes for mariculture. Literature reviews to date, no study has been done on the induced spawning of *Polymesoda erosa* in Sabah. However, in Hong Kong, this reproductive strategy (Morton, 1985) and reproductive biology (Gimin *et al.*, 2005) of *Polymesoda erosa* in Australia had been studied.

In the natural habitat, lokan spawned throughout the year (Morton, 1984). In Northern Australia, Gimin *et al.* (2005) stated that lokan has two spawning season which short season in September and extended season fallen on February to May. The maturation stage basically divided into active phase, ripe phase, partially-spawned phase and spent phase (Gosling, 2003; Gimin *et al.*, 2005). Moreover, during wet season, is the breeding season for *Polymesoda erosa*.



1.2 Conservation status

These common mangrove clams constitute significance shellfish resource in Southeast Asia (Morton, 1976). Presently, there is no large scale commercial fishery of lokan in Sabah, but in Salut Bay, lokan was collected at a subsistence level by the locals; these were sold as either fresh or as roasted, through road side stalls along Sulaman Road (Photo 1.1). Although the quantities harvested are small, they do represent the main source of income for a significant number of Sabah locals living near to Sulaman Road (Unid. Villager, pers.comm.). The wild stocks were quite abundant in these areas, and other mangrove-timed areas along west coast of Sabah (Manjaji Matsumoto, 2007). A sound management program of the mangrove clams can overcome future problems such as overexploitation, and could be useful for fisheries assessments and managements which were considered to be a benefit in the long term.



Photo 1.1 Lokan road side stalls along Sulaman Road.

1.3 Significance of study

In this study, preliminary survey found several locals up to five to ten packs at any one time selling lokan at road side stalls along the study area.

Lokan known has important commercial value in term of food source (Morton, 1984). The locals living in Salut Bay are basically generating income by selling lokan. Thus, this study can provide a clear picture to understand how lokan being harvested and the size and rate of exploitation being explored. Besides, there are only four published paper from internet, which is written by Brain Morton regarding the biology and morphology of the resource (1976), a review of *Polymesoda erosa* (1984), the reproductive strategy (1985), and lastly was population structure and age (1988). Gimin *et al.* (2005) has studied the aspect of the biology of *Polymesoda erosa* as well. Thus, there are no laboratory-induced spawning research has been conducted at the moment. In this study can provide base line data for conservation effort and fishery management. Further, a conservation effort such as sustainable use by restocking can be done as well. Hence, this research could give first hand information to overview the basic need structures and methods with the lowest cost to progress from this project.



1.4 Objectives of study

In this project, there are three objectives to be achieved:

- 1) To determine the rate and size of commercial exploitation of the resource.
- 2) To determine the maturation stage of *Polymesoda erosa*.
- 3) To determine the possibility of Lokan induced spawning by temperature shocking.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 General overview

2.1.1 Introduction of Phylum Mollusca

The phylum mollusca is one of largest, most diverse and important groups in the animal kingdom. molluscs are soft-bodied animals but most are protected by a hard protective shell or calcium carbonate shell. Inside the shell is a heavy fold tissue named as mantle. The mantle encloses the internal organs of the animal (Gosling, 2003).

There are normally divided nine classes under the phylum of Mollusca: there are class of Bivalvia, Caudofoveata, Cephalopoda, Gastropoda, Monoplacophora, polyplacophora and Scaphopoda, whereas the other two classes are known only from fossils which are the class of Helcionelloida and Rostroconchia. However, the most



important class of the living molluscs is the class Gastropoda comprising more than 80% of all living mollusc species. Table 2.1 are the classification of the phylum mollusca.

Table 2.1 The classification of the phylum mollusca.

(source: <http://www.palaeos.com/Invertebrates/Molluscs/Mollusca.Phylogeny.html>)

Class	Major organisms	Distribution
Caudofoveata	worm-like organisms	deep ocean
Polyplacophora	chitons	rocky marine shorelines
Monoplacophora	limpet-like organisms	deep ocean
Gastropoda	abalone, limpets, conch, nudibranchs, sea hares, sea butterfly, snails, slugs	marine, freshwater, land
Cephalopoda	squid, octopus, cuttlefish, nautilus	marine
Bivalvia	clams, oysters, scallops, mussels	marine
Scaphopoda	tusk shells	marine
Rostroconchia	fossils; probable ancestors of bivalves	—
Helcionelloida	fossils; snail-like organisms such as <i>Latouchella</i>	—

Lokan are bivalves which belong to class Bivalvia under phylum mollusca. Bivalves are the most highly modified of all the molluscs in some way. Over evolutionary time they have become flattened side to side. This class of bivalve has their shell made up of two parts or valve. The valves are drawn together by an anterior and posterior adductor muscle. When these are relaxed the shell is opened by elasticity of the ligament. Contraction of the adductor muscles closes the shell. When a bivalve dies these muscles



can no longer contract and the ligament force the shell open. A dead bivalve always has a gaping shell (Gosling, 2003).

Bivalves have no tentacle, radula, real eyes and head although they are equipped with sensory organs. Species determination is based mainly on shell characters (Cachia *et al*, 2004). Moreover, pharynx is absent and coelom is reduced to a dorsally placed pericardium (Bhamrah and Juneja, 2001). In other words, lokan has a simple structure within the shells.

2.1.2 Distributions

Lokan are widely distributed in Southeast Asian countries (Figure 2.1), where are the blackish color highlight regions such as Indo-West Pacific region, from India to Vanuatu; north to southern islands of Japan, and south to Queensland and New Caledonia (Carpenter and Niem, 1998; Morton, 1976). Morton (1976) proposed that it is covered only by rainwater draining through the mangrove from the land *Geloina erosa* can withstand long periods of exposure, during which time it can use subterranean water contained in the burrow.

In Chorao Island, the population characteristics of this mangrove clam were studied in the intertidal mangrove intertidal habitat. The density of juvenile clams was higher in the sediment near the feeding creek, whereas the density was higher in the



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