

البحث الرابع: (منفرد)

Title: Recruitment Pattern of Commercially Harvested Clam, *Venerupis aurea* (Bivalvia: Veneridae) in Natural Population at the Southern Region of Lake Timsah, Suez Canal, Egypt.

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Abstract:

Recruitment pattern of the venerid *Venerupis aurea* was monitored from August ٢٠٠٤ to September ٢٠٠٥ to investigate the feasibility of collecting natural spat for management or maricultural purposes. Three sites of varying adult densities were chosen in the southern region of Lake Timsah, Suez Canal, Egypt. Recruitment is used, herein, to refer to juveniles of generally less than ٩ mm shell length. The separation between juveniles and adults was based on the size at onset of maturity. Recruits of *V. aurea* were continuous throughout most of the year and varied significantly among the three sites. Monthly collections yielded an average of ٦٨٧.١, ٢٣٩.٥ and ١١٥.٣ spat.m^{-٢} at sites, I, II and III, respectively. Higher abundance of recruits occurred during the period from November ٢٠٠٤ to March ٢٠٠٥. The average density of juveniles at this period (n=٥) was ١٥٠٨.٠, ٢٩٣.٦ and ٢٦٢.٤ ind.m^{-٢} at the three sites, respectively. The survival of recruits is probably influenced by abiotic factors, particularly sediment composition rather than by biotic factors such as adult-juvenile interactions. The growth in length for juveniles from site I is accompanied by growth in weight (isometric growth). At site II and III, weight increased relatively slower than length indicating negative allometric growth.

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