Metamorphosis of Laboratory-Reared Larvae of Choncholepas concholepas (Mollusca; Gastropoda)

Eliseo O. Campos, Ariel Pinto, Eduardo Bustos, Sebastian R. Rodriguez, Nibaldo C. Inestrosa

Abstract

Metamorphosis of laboratory-reared larvae of the gastropod *Concholepas concholepas* was observed under the influence of K⁺ ions. After 64 h of incubation at 10°C, 58% of larvae metamorphosed in response to 20 mM K⁺final concentration in seawater, 11 mM above ambient. No effect was observed at 15 mM K⁺. Likewise, larvae were unable to survive when exposed to 25 mM K⁺. Metamorphosed individuals of *C. concholepas*migrated to the water-air interface within 28 h of their metamorphosis. This study reports the first successful experiment on the induction of metamorphosis in laboratory-reared larvae of *C. concholepas*. The advantages of mass production of larvae with metamorphic capacity of this economically important resource, related to its eventual culture on a pilot scale are discussed.