

Who's Working On Giant Clam Culture?

Giant clams of the family Tridacnidae are presently under intensive research in the southwestern Pacific. The largest among bivalve molluscs, some specimens have been recorded over a meter across. Many cultures in the Pacific have harvested them for food. Postlarval tridacnids are autotrophic, that is, they have the ability to produce their own food due to the presence of symbiotic algae. This self-feeding characteristic makes it attractive to farm them. Once harvested, hardly any portion is discarded—the adductor muscle and soft parts, except the kidney, are edible and the shell is prized for shellcraft. Successful induced spawning of giant clams in the early 1970s has paved the way for future farming. Meanwhile many natural populations have been seriously depleted or have become locally extinct. This article considers the publications on culture methods, induced spawning, larvae, larval and postlarval rearing and socioeconomics.

The Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) from 1982 to 1989, and ICLARM library and professional staff collections were searched. A total of 146 items were found. The earliest article was dated 1974. The annual publication rate has been increasing from 1.2 articles per year up to 1979, 5.8 for 1980-84, and 22 for 1985-89. Five were published with no date (Fig. 1).

Recent Meetings and Publications

A symposium-workshop on the culture of giant clams (*Bivalvia: Tridacnidae*), was held in Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Philippines, 15-17 March 1988. The proceedings, edited by E. Zaragoza, D. de Guzman and E. Gonzales, were published by the Philippine Council for Marine and Aquatic Resources Management and Development (PCMARD) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in 1989.

An international workshop on giant clams was held in Townsville, Australia, 18-22 April 1988. The proceedings of the workshop were published that same year.

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Copland, J.W. and J.S. Lucas were the editors of *Giant Clams in Asia and the Pacific*, ACIAR Monograph No. 9. This volume contains over fifty articles of interest to giant clam researchers.

Some other recent publications include: J.S. Lucas, W.J. Nash, C.M. Crawford and R.D. Braley's *Environmental influences in growth and survival during ocean-nursery rearing of giant clams*, *Tridacna gigas* (L.) published in *Aquaculture* 80:45-61, in 1989; E.P. Solis and G.A. Heslinga's *Effect of desiccation of Tridacna derasa seed: pure oxygen improves survival during transport* published in *Aquaculture* 76:169-172 in 1989; G.A. Heslinga, T. Watson and T. Isamu's *Giant clam farming*, a manual published by Pacific Fisheries Development Federation, Hawaii, in 1990; *The economic and socioeconomic potential of giant clam (Tridacnid) culture: a review* by C. Tisdell and published by the Department of Economics, University of Newcastle as Occasional Paper No. 128 in 1986; and *A bibliography of giant clams (Bivalvia:Tridacnidae)* by J.L. Munro and W.J. Nash published in 1985 as ICLARM Bibliographies 5.

Two newsletters of interest to giant clam researchers and growers are: *Clamlines*, the Newsletter of the Giant Clam Research Group, Coastal Aquaculture Network, ICLARM's Coastal Aquaculture Centre, P.O. Box 348, Honiara, Solomon Islands, edited by J.L. Munro; and the *MMDC Bulletin*, the newsletter of the Micronesian Mariculture Dem-

onstration Center, P.O. Box 359 Koror, Republic of Palau 96940, edited by G.A. Heslinga.

Institutions and Contact Persons

Dr. J.L. Munro and Mr. G.A. Heslinga (see respective addresses above) have been involved in giant clam culture for over a decade. Other institutions are: The Zoology Department of the James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland 4811, Australia (contact: Drs. R.D. Braley or J.S. Lucas); Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Industries, P.O. Box 358, Suva, Fiji (contact: T. Adams); Silliman University Marine Laboratory, Dumaguete City 6501, Philippines (contact: H. Calumpang); the Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City 1101, Philippines (contact: Dr. E.D. Gomez); and the Department of Economics, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, N.S.W., 2308, Australia (contact: C. Tisdell).

ICLARM can provide more information on giant clam culture. Write to Selective Fisheries Information Service, ICLARM, MC P.O. Box 1501, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines, for details and costs involved. 6

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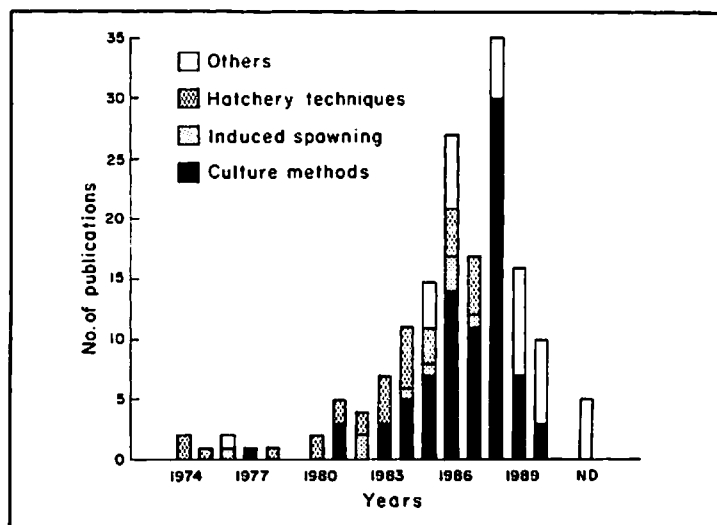


Fig. 1. Growth of literature over time. Note there is a delay in the inclusion of materials in the databases used. N = 146.