

PLEOPODAL EGG PRODUCTION OF THE WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH AUSTROPOTAMOBIOUS PALLIPES LEREBOULLET UNDER LABORATORY CONDITIONS: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EGG NUMBER, EGG DIAMETER AND FEMALE SIZE



Reproductive data from a total number of 1296 adult white-clawed crayfish (864 females mean carapace length size 3.36 ± 0.49 cm and 432 males mean carapace length size 3.66 ± 0.38 cm) are reported. In a 10-year period, crayfish from wild populations caught in mid September were kept under indoor laboratory conditions where mating and spawning took place. Broodstock mortality was low: 5% in females and 1.1% in males. From the initial number of females, 771 mated (89.2%) and 721 spawned (83.4%). Pleopodal eggs were counted without removal between 3 and 20 days after spawning and mean number was 73.5 ± 34.1 (range 14-220). Egg diameter of 94 females was measured giving a mean value of 2.39 ± 0.015 mm (range 2.08-2.79 mm). Correlations between female size (carapace length CL), number of pleopodal eggs and egg diameter were made.

Auteurs du document : M. SÁEZ-ROYUELA, J.M. CARRAL, J. CELADA, J.R. PÉREZ, A. GONZÁLEZ

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