

Reproduction of



In the south-west lagoon of New Caledonia, the first sexual maturity size is 45 mm for Annachlamys flabellata (Bernadi), 60 mm for Comptopallium radula (L.) and 50 mm for Mimachlamys gloriosa (Reeve). The global sex-ratio was not significantly different from 1:1 for C. radula unlike A. flabellata and M. gloriosa (1.3:1 for two species). The significantly greater mean size of females suggests a protandric sex reversal. The reproductive cycle was studied monthly for two years for M. gloriosa and one year for C. radula and A. flabellata, then weekly over periods of 12 months for M. gloriosa and 6 months for C. radula. Reproduction of the three species occurs throughout the year with a maximal activity during the warm season. M. gloriosa and C. radula are capable of spawning several times a month. Fluctuations of reproductive intensity are related to temperature and salinity fluctuations.

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Obtenir le document : EDP Sciences

Mots clés : Bivalve, Pectinid, Pacific, New Caledonia, lagoon, reproduction, Bivalve, Pectinidé, Pacifique, Nouvelle-Calédonie, lagon, reproduction

Thème (issu du Text Mining) : MILIEU NATUREL, FAUNE

Date : 1994-01-15

Format : text/xml

Source : <https://doi.org/10.1051/alr:1994005>

Langue : Anglais

Télécharger les documents : <https://www.alr-journal.org/10.1051/alr:1994005/pdf>

Permalien : <https://www.documentation.eauetbiodiversite.fr/notice/reproduction-of1>

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