

Gut morphology of developing Malaysian River Catfish *Mystus Nemurus* (Cuvier and Valenciennes) Larvae.

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to monitor ontogenetic changes in the gut morphology of Malaysian river catfish, *Mystus nemurus* during larval development. Fish larvae were reared in three 1 ton fiberglass tanks. During the study, the larvae were fed on *Artemia nauplii* at 5 organisms ml feeding-1 from the start of exogenous feeding (4 DAH). The morphological development of the gut in *M. nemurus* larvae was observed using a profile projector and a light microscope for a 21 days period. At hatching and during the yolk absorption period, the gut was a simple, straight, undifferentiated tube throughout its length. By 4-5 DAH, the gut differentiated to the esophagus, stomach, and intestine which coincided to the commencement of exogenous feeding. Strong ($GL = 0.3179TL - 0.1412$, $R^2 = 0.9284$) relationship was found between gut length (GL) and total length (TL) of fish.

Keyword: Malaysian river catfish; Larvae; Gut morphology; *Mystus nemurus*.