

**Embryonic and larval development of river catfish *Hemibagrus nemurus*
(Valenciennes, 1840).**

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to characterize embryonic and larval developmental stages of the river catfish, *Hemibagrus nemurus*. Fertilized eggs were spherical, adhesive and demersal with a mean egg diameter of 1.5 ± 0.3 mm. Seven embryonic periods were characterized for timing and features: zygote, cleavage, blastula, gastrula, segmentation, pharyngula and hatching. Mean hatch was 23 ± 1 h post fertilization at 27°C . The newly hatched larvae measured 3.0 ± 0.2 mm in total length. Morphogenesis was completed in a day. The yolk sac was completely absorbed in three days. *H. nemurus* has a short embryonic developmental period in comparison with other catfish species. The information obtained from this study will be useful for egg incubation and larval rearing during the culture of *H. nemurus*.

Keyword: Catfish; Early development; Embryology; *Hemibagrus nemurus*; Larval development.