Reproductive behavior of the marine gastropod Charonia seguenzae (Aradas & Benoit, 1870) in captivity

DOXA CHRYSA
HCMR, P.O. Box 2214, 71003 Heraklion, Crete

STERIOI ASPASIA
Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture, HCMR, P.O. Box 2214, 71003 Heraklion, Crete Biology Department, University of Crete, P.O. Box 1470, 71110 Heraklion, Crete

DIVANACH PASCAL
Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture, HCMR, P.O. Box 2214, 71003 Heraklion, Crete

KENTOURI MAROUDIO
Biology Department, University of Crete, P.O. Box 1470, 71110 Heraklion, Crete, Greece

https://doi.org/10.12681/mms.14917

To cite this article:

DOXA, C., STERIOI, A., DIVANACH, P., & KENTOURI, M. (2019). Reproductive behavior of the marine gastropod Charonia seguenzae (Aradas & Benoit, 1870) in captivity. Mediterranean Marine Science, 20(1), 49-55. doi:https://doi.org/10.12681/mms.14917
Reproductive behavior of the marine gastropod *Charonia seguenzae* (Aradas & Benoit, 1870) in captivity

Chrysa K. DOXA1,2, Aspasia STERIOTI1,3, Pascal DIVANACH1,3 and Maroudio KENTOURI2

1 Cretaquarium, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, P.O. Box 2214, 71003 Heraklion, Crete, Greece
2 Biology Department, University of Crete, P.O. Box 1470, 71110 Heraklion, Crete, Greece
3 Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, P.O. Box 2214, 71003 Heraklion, Crete, Greece

Corresponding author: chrisadoxa@hcmr.gr

Handling Editor: Mehmet YOKES

Received: 15 November 2017; Accepted: 17 December 2018; Published on line: 22 April 2019

Abstract

The reproductive behavior of the marine gastropod *Charonia seguenzae* (Aradas & Benoit, 1870) was studied through the description of 19 copulation and 21 egg-laying events of 134 wild individuals. Findings in the present study regarding the reproduction temperature range (20 to 23°C) and demonstration of maternal care provided important information on the biology, behavior, and ecology of this species. Furthermore, observed polyandry by females and the collaborative care of embryonic sacks were two aspects of the reproductive biology of this species that pose new questions both at the ecological and evolutionary level.

Keywords: *Charonia seguenzae*; reproduction; behavior; maternal care; polyandry.

Introduction

The triton *Charonia seguenzae* (Aradas & Benoit, 1870), formerly reported as *C. variegata* (Clench & Turner, 1957) or *C. tritonis variegata* (Beu, 1970), was only recently classified as a separate species of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (Beu, 2010). Scientific knowledge related to its biology is scarce and focuses mainly on geographical distribution, taxonomy (Beu, 2010), and captive feeding (Doxa et al., 2012; 2013). Complementary literature from the Indo-Pacific zone provides some biochemical and pharmacological data (Teshima et al., 1979) as well as findings on the feeding and reproductive behavior (Laxton, 1969, 1971; Birkeland & Lucas, 1990; Kang & Kim, 2004) of *Charonia* sp. individuals in tropical and subtropical waters.

Previously abundant, populations of *Charonia* species are declining or extinct in some cases due to over-fishing for food and ornamental purposes (Russo et al., 1990; Hosking, 1996; Wang, 1997; McLean, 1999; Kang & Kim, 2004; Katsanevakis et al., 2008). Currently, although not listed under the IUCN Red List (2009), both *Charonia* species existing in the Mediterranean Sea (*C. lampas* and *C. seguenzae*) are protected according to Annex II of the Bern Convention (Council of Europe, 1979) and the Protocol of the Barcelona Convention (European Community, 1999). However, individuals caught in nets are rarely released back into the sea (Katsanevakis et al., 2008).

The re-establishment of *Charonia* stocks in depleted areas requires strong knowledge of the biology and ecology of this genus, which can be supplemented by the study of captive populations. As such, interest in the rearing of *Charonia* species for bio-manipulation and ecological applications has increased in recent years (Doxa et al., 2012, 2013; Zhang et al., 2013; Cavallaro et al., 2016; Kang et al., 2016; Bose et al., 2017). Firm knowledge regarding reproductive behavior is a prerequisite for the breeding of a species. Prosobranch gastropods are generally gonochoristic, and fertilisation is internal in most cases. Most of the Caenogastropoda, including all Ranellidae species, enclose their eggs in capsules, which provides protection from radiation as well as mechanical and osmotic stress and predators (Pechenik 1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1986; Perron, 1981; Lord, 1986; Hawkins & Hutchinson, 1988; Pauly & Pullin, 1988; Rawlings, 1996).

Parental care consists of a wide range of behavioural, morphological, and physiological responses that have evolved in most taxa to increase offspring survival. Most studies have focused on parental care in vertebrates, while the ecology and evolution of parental care of many invertebrate taxa remain un- or understudied (Clutton-Brock, 1991). Gastropods present a large variety of parental care adaptations. Some of these adaptations include the enclosure of unfertilised eggs (nurse eggs) within egg cap-
sules, the incubation of the egg capsules under the foot, the preparation of surfaces for capsule deposition, the attachment of egg capsules on the parental shell, the storage of eggs in the mantle cavity, and even ovoviviparity and viviparity (Purchon, 1977; Tompa et al., 1984; Baur, 1994; Kamel & Grosberg, 2012).

The reproductive behavior of *C. seguenzae* has not been previously described, while some aspects of reproductive behavior of other *Charonia* species from the Western Mediterranean Sea and Indo-Pacific Ocean have been documented (Laxton, 1969; Zhang, 2013; Cavallaro et al., 2016). The aim of the present study is to enrich the existing knowledge and offer a thorough and detailed description of the reproductive behavior of *C. seguenzae*.

**Materials and Methods**

**Experimental population and holding conditions**

Experiments were conducted over a four-year period (2007-2011) at the facilities of Cretaquarium, a public aquarium of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR). Divers hand-picked 134 specimens of *Charonia seguenzae* from the inshore littoral zone of Crete, Greece, which were transported to the facility. Specimens were divided into groups of 5-10 individuals and were placed in 150 and 300L aquaria. During this period, food was provided once a week and consisted of frozen sea stars, fish, as well as live sea urchins and holothurians. Aquaria were organised as semi-closed circuits with air-lift as well as mechanical and biological filtration. Aquaria were filled with seawater (35‰) from a deep circum-littoral borehole. Water renewal and recirculation rates were 30 and 100 %/h, respectively. White 60 W neon lamps were used for illumination, with photoperiod adjusted to 13L-11D. Temperature was regulated through a heat exchange system at 20 and 23°C, and 67 individuals were held under each regime. Oxygen saturation (above 90%) and pH (7.7 ± 0.1) remained constant throughout the experiment.

**Experimental procedure**

The reproductive behavior of the marine gastropod *C. seguenzae* was described for the populations held in the quarantine area of Cretaquarium from 2007-2011. The observations included the daily monitoring (from 8:00 to 16:00) of all animals and the recording of copulation events (time, duration), egg capsule depositions, and the behavior of the animals in the tank. It was not possible to record nocturnal animal behavior due to facility limitations. The experimental aquaria were in the aquarium quarantine area with other fish under the same photoperiod. During scotophase, the lighting conditions were not suitable for recording. The individuals were identified either by an engraved number (Dremel 400 Digital) on their shell (Fig. 1) or by distinct morphological differences and shell markings.

**Fig. 1:** Engraved number (encircled area) used as identification mark on a *Charonia seguenzae* shell.

**Fig. 2:** A) Copulation of *Charonia seguenzae*: Female - bottom left, male - upper right. B) Copulation of a male *Charonia seguenzae* with a female that had already deposited egg capsules.
Results

Copulation

Fertilisation was internal, with the male usually attached to the female’s shell, inserting its penis into the female’s mantle cavity (Fig. 2A). A total of 19 copulation events were recorded. The copulation, lasting 2-4 hours per session, took place early in the morning. It was not possible to estimate the exact copulation duration, since copulation likely began during the night and was only recorded early in the morning. It is also possible that not every copulation event was recorded if it occurred entirely during the night.

Egg capsule deposition was observed from day 3 to day 95 after fertilisation with a male being observed copulating with a female that had already deposited egg capsules (Fig. 2B). On three occasions, a female copulated with different males at separate times. On one occasion, the simultaneous copulation of one female with two males was recorded, with both males being attached to the female’s shell and both having inserted their respective penises into the female’s mantle cavity (Fig. 3) for over 2 hours (135 min).

Egg capsule deposition

Between 2007 and 2011, 21 egg capsule depositions were observed and studied. Six depositions were performed by females held at 20°C, while 15 were performed by females held at 23°C (Fig. 4). All copulating females laid egg capsules. Female size ranged from 158.66 to 958.9 g weight and 13.4 to 25.6 cm shell length. All deposition events occurred between September and November regardless of temperature, apart from one deposition that occurred in June 2011 at 23°C.

The females attached capsules containing the developing embryos on the walls of the aquaria (Fig. 5A). The deposition was asynchronous, with the females attaching the capsules in batches. Each batch deposition lasted 1 to 4 days, while the interval between batches ranged from 1 to 24 days. The capsules were placed next to each other, lacking any obvious pattern, and the different batches were placed either next to each other, among each other, or at completely different sites in the tank.

Maternal care

Strong maternal behavior was observed during incubation period, since the female remained in the depositing area to protect the capsules and clean them from parasites and algae. The cleaning process included the extension of the mother’s proboscis and the ‘licking’ of the capsules (Fig. 5B). Mothers were dedicated to their egg capsules, with occasional short break intervals lasting from 1 hour to 3 days. Most of these breaks occurred during feeding. The mothers ate once per month during this period, even though food was provided once per week.

Apart from the mothers, other individuals in the same tank provided care to the egg capsules in 16 out of 21 (76%) observed depositions. During the developmental period, one to five other individuals were present in the deposition area (Fig. 6). Their presence was not continuous and lasted 1 to 3 days. On two occasions, a male that was copulating with a female after her first deposition was observed cleaning the capsules using its proboscis in the same manner as the females (Fig. 5). Furthermore, on another two occasions, two females that had deposited capsules in the same aquarium during the same period took care of all the capsules. During observation, the females were observed moving alternately between two capsule clusters, cleaning all capsules regardless of origin.

Discussion

The triton Charonia seguenzae is a gonochoristic species with internal fertilisation. The few references concerning the copulation behavior of mesogastropoda and neogastropoda indicate that females have a passive role, since they remain adherent to the substrate or “rest” at
**Fig. 4:** Annual egg capsule deposition (2007-2011) under two temperature conditions (20 and 23°C).

**Fig. 5:** A) Female depositing egg capsules. B) Female cleaning egg capsules with its proboscis. C) Male (upper) copulating with a female that deposited capsules (bottom). D) Female (left) and the male (right) laying on the egg capsules. E) Male alone on egg capsules. F) Male cleaning egg capsules with its proboscis.
season with more than one male, both prior to the first capsule deposition and in between subsequent depositions. Copulation between capsule depositions has been observed for other species of marine gastropods, including *Kelletia kelletti* (Rosenthal, 1970), *Charonia lampas* (Laxton, 1971), and *Charonia tritonis* (Zhang et al., 2013). Multiple copulation of a female with more than one male is a common feature among marine gastropods, and has described for many species, such as *Charonia tritonis*, *Cabestana spengleri*, *Kelletia kelletti*, *Littorina saxatilis*, *Crepidula coquimbensis*, *Busycon carica*, *Rapana venosa* (Rosenthal, 1970; Laxton, 1971; Walker et al., 2006; Makinen et al., 2007; Brante et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2013; Xue et al., 2014). Although competition between males for the same female has been observed (*Cabestana spengleri*, Laxton, 1971), the simultaneous copulation of a female with two males has not been previously reported in marine prosobranch gastropods. This was not a random event, since the simultaneous copulation of three experimental individuals was recorded again in 2014 (unpublished data). The only references of simultaneous copulation concern chain formations with 3 to 6 individuals of hermaphroditic gastropods of the genus *Aplysia* (Pennings, 1991). In the latter case, each individual in the chain, with the exception of the first and the last ones, received and transferred sperm simultaneously.

Female tritons’ polyandry raises questions concerning the possibility of multiple paternity among the offspring. Females’ polygamy and multiple paternity among offspring have been observed in many taxa (Uller & Olsson, 2008), and can intensify the phenomenon of sexual selection (Freeman & Herron, 2003; Futuyma, 2005). According to the literature, in several species (e.g. *Littorina saxatilis*, *Crepidula coquimbensis*, *Busycon carica*, *Rapana venosa*) 76-100% of the female have been observed being fertilised by more than one male (Walker et al., 2006; Makinen et al., 2007; Brante et al., 2011; Xue et al., 2014). However, in order to verify multiple paternity in *C. seguenzae*, the use of genotyping techniques is required.

Tritons lay their eggs in protective capsules, which are attached on the substrate. In the present study, egg capsule deposition occurred from day 3 to day 95 post-copulation, indicating that females can store sperm for up to 3 months. Sperm storage is a very common phenomenon among prosobranch gastropods (Webber, 1977; Fretter, 1984), with the longest recorded period reaching 18 months in *Oncomelania formosana* (Roth, 1960). In the present study, the spawning of *C. seguenzae* occurred between September and November (apart from one case) at 20 and 23°C. Likewise, the spawning of another Mediterranean species, *Charonia lampas*, occurring in November (Cavallaro et al., 2016), which is within the observed range of *C. seguenzae*.

The triton *C. seguenzae* demonstrates a very interesting behavioural pattern regarding the protection and care of its egg capsules, with two distinct levels. The first level consists of the maternal care. The most pronounced protection derived from mothers, which remained on capsules throughout nearly the entire embryonic development, protecting and wiping them using their proboscises. Maternal care is a common feature among the Ranellidae (Laxton, 1971; Govan, 1995; Cavallaro et al., 2016) and aims to improve the survival rate of embryos in order to produce more and fitter offspring (Gallardo et al., 2012).

In addition to maternal care, other individuals of the same tank were found to contribute care at a secondary level, with potential fathers being among them. Similar observations of the occasional care of egg capsules by alleged fathers has been reported in *Cabestana spengleri*, though there are no reports concerning the other studied Ranellidae (Laxton, 1971). Although it is uncommon for males to provide parental care to offspring in this group, in some gastropod species such as *Solenostoeira macrospira*, the male cares for egg capsules that are attached to their shell exclusively, even if they are not the only father (Kamel & Grosberg, 2012). Despite the general theory of parental care according to which the greater a male’s confidence of paternity, the more he should be willing to invest in post-zygotic care of offspring (Clutton-Brock, 1991), in some species such as *S. macrospira*, the males care for the offspring of polyandrous females despite their paternity rate being low (Kamel & Grosberg, 2012).

There were also other female individuals that had no direct kinship to the developing embryos, nevertheless they provided care. The case of the joint care of two batches of egg capsules by their mothers could be grouped under this category of cooperative breeding. Similar behavior has been recorded in another Ranellidae species in nature (*Ranella australasiae*), where groups of females lay their eggs in the same crevice. A female, whose eggs had hatched, would not begin feeding again even though she had not eaten for three months. Instead, she would join an adjacent female—whose eggs had not yet hatched—and contribute to egg incubation (Laxton, 1971). Although cooperative breeding has not been described in other gastropods, this strategy can be found in fish, birds, and mammals (Bergmüller et al., 2007). The
advantages of this breeding pattern may be either direct through assistants increasing their chances to reproduce, or indirect through assistants increasing their fitness by helping close relatives to increase the number of their genes in future generations (Emlen, 1991; Cockburn, 1998; Hatchwell & Komdeur, 2000; Gilchrist, 2007). Although the degree of kinship among the tritons is unknown in the present study, the possibility of close kinship is assumed to be low due to the studied individuals coming from a wide area covering the north-eastern coast of Crete.

This study provides important information regarding the biology, behavior, and ecology of *Charonia seguenzae*, such as the preferred temperature range for reproduction and the observation of parental care for offspring. Additionally, this study is the first to document two aspects of the reproductive behavior of tritons—the polyandry of the females and cooperative breeding—which raises questions at both the ecological and evolutionary level. Our future research will focus on the use of genetic tools to identify the paternity of offspring as well as the gene composition and kinship of the population. Such results will be valuable in understanding the structure and function of triton populations in the wild, contributing essential knowledge towards both the breeding of triton in captivity and the management of natural populations by designing policies for conservation and restoration.

Acknowledgements

Funding for the present study was part of the Cretaquarium budget. The authors wish to thank Mr. Georgios Vardanis for his valuable comments on the manuscript.

References

Baur, B., 1994. Parental care in terrestrial gastropods. *Experimenta*, 50, 5-14.

Berg, C.J., 1971. Egg capsule and early veliger of *Charonia tritonis* (Linnaeus). *Veliger*, 13, 298.

Bergmüller, R., Johnstone, R.A., Russell, A.F., Bshary, R., 2007. Integrating cooperative breeding into theoretical concepts of cooperation. *Behavioural Processes*, 76, 61-2.

Beu, A.G., 1970. The Mollusca of the Genus *Charonia* (Family Cymatiidae). *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Biological Sciences*, 11, 205-223.

Beu, A.G., 2010. Neogene tonnoidean gastropods of tropical and South America: contributions to the Dominican Republic and Panama Palentology projects and uplift of the Central American Isthmus. *Bulletin of American Paleontology*, 377-378: 1-550, 79 pls.

Birkeland, C., Lucas, J.S., 1990. *Acanthaster planci*: major management problem of coral reefs. *CRC Press*, Boca Raton LA, 272pp.

Bose, U., Suwansa-ard, S., Maikaeo, L., Motti, C.A., Hall, M.R. et al., 2017. Neuropeptides encoded within a neural transcriptome of the giant triton snail *Charonia tritonis*, a Crown-of-Thorns Starfish predator. *Peptides*, 98, 3-14.

Brante, A., Fernández, M., Viard, F., 2011. Microsatellite evidence for sperm storage and multiple paternity in the marine gastropod *Crepidula coquimbensis*. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 396, 83-88.

Cavallaro, M., Navarra, E., Danzé, A., Danzé, G., Muscoli, N. D. et al., 2016. Mediterranean triton *Charonia lampas lampas* (Gastropoda: Caenogastropoda): report on captive breeding. *Acta Adriatica*, 57, 263-272.

Chess, R. J., Rosenthal, R. J., 1971. On the reproductive biology of *Mitra idae* (Gastropoda: Mitridae). *Veliger*, 14, 172-176.

Chlench, W.J., Turner, R.D., 1957. The Family Cymatiidae in the Western Atlantic. *Johnsbornia*, 3, 189-244, pls. 110-135.

Clutton-Brock, T.H., 1991. *The Evolution of Parental Care*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 352pp.

Cockburn, A., 1998. Evolution of helping behaviour in cooperatively breeding birds. *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics*, 29, 141-177.

Council of Europe, 1979. CETS No.:104. Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Bern, 19.IX.1979. *European Treaty Series*, 104, 1-26.

Doxa, C.K., Kentouri, M., Divanach, P., 2012. Feeding of *Charonia seguenzae* (Aradas & Benoit, 1870) on natural prey and alternative foods. *Journal of Molluscan Studies*, 79, 76-78.

Doxa, C.K., Divanach, P., Kentouri, M., 2013. Consumption rates and digestibility of four food items by the marine gastropod *Charonia seguenzae* (Aradas & Benoit, 1870). *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 446, 10-16.

Emlen, S.T., 1981. Evolution of cooperative breeding in birds and mammals. p. 301-337 In: *Behavioural Ecology: An Evolutionary Approach*. Krebs, J. R., and Davies, N. B. (Eds.). Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford.

European Community, 1999. Council Decision of 22 October 1999 on concluding the Protocol concerning specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean, and on accepting the annexes to that Protocol (Barcelona Convention). *Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 322, 1-17.

Freeman, S., Herron, J.C., 2003. *Evolutionary analysis*. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 856pp.

Fretter, V., 1984. Prosobranchs. Reproduction. p. 1-45. In: *The Mollusca*, vol. 7. Tompa, A.S., Verdonk, N.H., Van Den Biggelaar, J.A.M. (Eds.). Academic Press, New York, USA.

Futuyma, D.J., 2005. *Evolution*. Sinauer, Sunderland, MA, 603 pp.

Gallardo, C.S., Haro, D., Wagner, C., Garrido, O., Cañete, J.I., 2012. Egg-laying behaviour and intracapsular development of *Argobuccinum postulosum* (Gastropoda: Ranellidae) in temperate waters at the South coast of Chile. *Marine Biology Research*, 8, 815-828.

Gilchrist, J.S., 2007. Cooperative behaviour in cooperative breeders: costs, benefits, and communal breeding. *Behavioural Processes*, 76, 100-5.

Govan, H., 1995. *Cymatium muralcicum* and other ranellid gastropods: Major predators of cultured tracidae clams. *International Center for Living Aquatic Recourses Management (ICLARM)*, ICLARM Technical Report, No. 49, 136pp.
Hatchwell, B., Komdeur, J., 2000. Ecological constraints, life history traits and the evolution of cooperative breeding. *Animal Behavior, 59*, 1079-1086.

Hawkins, L.E., Hutchinson, S., 1988. Egg capsule structure and hatching mechanism of *Ocenebra erinacea* (L.) (Prosporbranchia: Muricidae). *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 119, 269-283.

Hocking, R., 1996. *Dictionary of Japanese food*. Tuttle Publishing, Singapore, 223 pp.

Kamel, S.J., Grosberg, R.K., 2012. Exclusive male care despite extreme female promiscuity and low paternity in a marine snail. *Ecology Letters*, 15, 1167-73.

Kang, K.H., Kim, J.M., 2004. The predation of trumpet shell, *Charonia sp.*, on eight different marine invertebrate species. *Aquaculture Research*, 35, 1-9.

Kang, K., Kim, M., Hong, H., Cha, G., Sui, Z., 2016. Feeding broodstocks different starfish diets affects growth and survival of larvae of trumpet shell (*Charonia lampas sauliae*) in *Reeve*, 1844). *Journal of Ocean University of China*, 15, 861-865.

Katsanevakis, S., Lefkaditou, E., Galinou-Mitsoudi, S., Koutouba, D., Zenetos, A., 2008. Molluscan species of minor commercial interest in Hellenic seas: Distribution, exploitation and conservation status. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 9, 77-118.

Laxton, J.H., 1969., Reproduction in some New Zealand cymatiidae (Gastropoda: Prosobranchia). Zoological *Journal of the Linnean Society*, 48, 237-253.

Laxton, J.H., 1971. Feeding in some Australasian cymatiidae (Gastropoda: Prosobranchia). *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 50, 1-9.

Lord, A., 1986. Are the contents of egg capsules of the marine gastropod *Nucella lapillus* (L.) axenic? *American Malacological Bulletin*, 4, 201-203.

Måkinen, T., Panova, M., André, C., 2007. High levels of multiple paternity in *Littorina saxatilis*: hedging the bets? *Journal of Heredity*, 98, 705-11.

McLean, M., 1999. *Weavers of Song: Polynesian Music & Dance*. Auckland University Press, Auckland, 547 pp.

Pauly, D., Pullin, R.V., 1988. Hatching time in spherical, pelagic marine fish eggs in response to temperature and egg size. *Environmental Biology of Fishes*, 22, 261-271.

Pechenik, J.A., 1978. Adaptations to intertidal development: studies on *Nassarius obsoletus*. *Biological Bulletin*, 154, 282-291.

Pechenik, J.A., 1979. The role of encapsulation in invertebrate life histories. *The American Naturalist*, 114, 859-870.

Pechenik, J.A., 1982. Ability of some gastropod egg capsules to protect against low-salinity stress *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 63, 195-208.

Pechenik, J.A., 1986. Egg capsules of *Nucella lapillus* (L.) protect against low-salinity stress. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 71, 165-179.

Pechenik, J.A., 1987. The encapsulation of eggs and embryos by molluscs: an overview. *American Malacological Bulletin*, 4, 165-172.

Pennings, S.C., 1991. Reproductive behavior of *Aplysia californica*. Cooper: diel patterns, sexual roles and mating aggregations. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 149, 249-266.

Perchard, P.L., 1972. Observations on the gastropod, *Charonia variegata*, in Trinidad and Tobago. *Nautilus*, 85, 84-92.

Perron, F.E., 1981. The Partitioning of Reproductive Energy between Ova and Protective Capsules in Marine Gastropods of the Genus *Conus*. *American Naturalist*, 118, 110-118.

Purchon, R.D., 1977. *The Biology of the Mollusca*. Pergamon, New York, 559 pp.

Rawlings, T.A., 1996. Shields against ultraviolet radiation: An additional protective role for the egg capsules of benthic marine gastropods. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 136, 81-95.

Rosenthal, R.J., 1970. Observations on the reproductive biology of the Kellet’s Whelk, *Kelletia kelletii*. *The Veliger*, 12, 319-324.

Roth, A.A., 1960. Aspects of the Function of the Bursa Copulatrix and Seminal Receptacle in the Prosobranch Sand *Oncotelaria forcina* Pilsbry and Hirase. *Transactions of the American Microscopical Society*, 79, 412-419.

Russo, G.F., Basulo, G., Toso, A., Toso, F., 1990. On the presence of *Triton* species (*Charonia spp.*) (Mollusca: Gastropoda) in the Mediterranean Sea: Ecological considerations. *Bolletino Malacologico*, 26, 91-104.

Teshima, S., Kanazawa, A., Hyodo, S., Ando, T., 1979. Sterols of the triton, *Charonia tritonis*. *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology Part B*, 64, 225-228.

Tompa, A.S., Verdonk, N.H., van den Biggelaar, J.A.M., 1984. *The Mollusca*, Vol. 7: Reproduction. Academic Press, London, 486 pp.

Uller, T., Olsson, M., 2008. Multiple paternity in reptiles: patterns and processes. *Molecular Ecology*, 17, 2566-2580.

Wang, D.D., 1997. *Fin-de-Siecle Splendor: Repressed Moderations*. Simon & Schuster, New York, 559 pp.

Webber, H.H., 1977. *The Veliger*, 13, 95-108.

Xue, D., Zhang, T., Liu, J.-X., 2014. Microsatellite evidence for high frequency of multiple paternity in the marine gastropod *Rapana venosa*. *PLoS One*, 9, e86508.

Zhang, L.-P., Xia, J.-J., Peng, P.-F., Li, H.-P., Luo, P., 2013. Characterization of embryogenesis and early larval development in the Pacific triton, *Charonia tritonis* (Gastropoda: Caenogastropoda). *Invertebrate Reproduction and Development*, 57, 237-246.