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Natural spawning observations of *Pearsonothuria graeffei*

Pradina Purwati¹

Spawning of *Pearsonothuria graeffei* in its natural habitat was observed during Anambas Expedition 2001. The animals stood up, waving the anterior part of the body slowly, and spilled their gametes into the water column.

Dates and locations: 13 March 2002 on the north-eastern part of Jebung Bay, Jemaja Island (03°15.19'N and 106°13.48'E) and 14 March 2002 on the south western coast of Matak Island (02°52.43'N to 02°54.63'N and 105°50.97'E), Anambas islands, South China Sea.

Depth: down to 32 m

Time of spawning observation: 05:00–06:00 pm

Habitat: reef slope, white sand, a lot of boulders and branching corals (first site); shallow disturbed fringing reef, damage and dead corals (second site).

Other echinoderm on the sites: *Diadema setosum*



Pearsonothuria graeffei
spawning in the wild

Natural spawning observation of *Stichopus hermanni*

Aymeric Desurmont²

Location: Baie des Citrons, Noumea, New Caledonia (22°15'S and 166°25'E)

Date and time: 12 February 2003, 05:30 pm

Depth: 4 m

Bottom: rocky with small patches of sand and coral

Moon phase: 4 days before full moon

Tide: 1.5 hours after high tide.

Description: One specimen of curryfish (*Stichopus hermanni*), about 50 cm long, was erected on

the top of a small rocky pinnacle. It was slowly swaying while releasing dribbles of gametes. No other curryfish was visible in a 15-m radius. Several specimens of other sea cucumber species (*Bohadschia argus*, *B. vitiensis*, *Holothuria atra*, *H. coluber*, *H. edulis* and *Stichopus chloronotus*) were present in the surroundings, but none was showing signs of reproductive activity. The curryfish kept releasing gametes during the 20 minutes that the observation lasted.

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