

Spawning observations

communicated by Sumaitt Putchakarn¹

During my last field trip to Koh Samet (“Koh” means island), eastern coast of Thailand on 22–24 September 2000, I observed holothurians spawning. The species was *Holothuria (Thymioscycia) impatiens*. I found both females and males. I think this species might couple one by one because I did not see any holothurians in a 2–3 meter area (if I am right). The distance between males and females was about 80 centimeters and the size of the holothurians was about 15 centimeters in length.

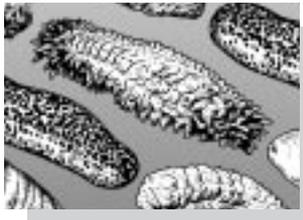
I found this appearance on the afternoon of 23 September, which is the late rainy season in Thailand. There was heavy rain in the morning but the sea was calm with no current. It was my first time to observe holothurians spawning.

Three pictures of sperm released by these holothurians are on the webpage:

<http://www.nrm.se/ev/dok/thaiechinod.html.en>.

This web page is maintained by Dr. Sabine. Unfortunately, I could not take any photos of females.

I would appreciate it if anybody can give me information on the coupling of holothurians in their natural habitat and discuss holothurian spawning.



correspondence beche-de-mer

1- From Jerry Comans

(Project Officer, Hervey Bay Dugong And Seagrass Monitoring Programme, 22 Byron St, Scarness, Hervey Bay, Australia 4655)

I am Project Officer for a seagrass watch program in Hervey Bay, Queensland, Australia. Can you advise if you have any information on the relationship of beche-de-mer to seagrass meadows? In our area we

know that when seagrass dies out, the beche-de-mer disappear. Conversely would the depletion of stocks have an impact on seagrass meadows?

2- From Norman Reichenbach

(nreichen@liberty.edu)

Hope you are well. I am working on amphibians these days. You may already be using or know about elastomer tagging methods. We are using them on amphibians for permanent marks and they are working well.

It seems to me these should be tried on sea cucumbers. I think it might be a way to permanently mark them. The company that markets the elastomer has

a web site: www.nmt-inc.com. You can contact Mary Woodgate who works for the company.

You should be able to inject it directly into the muscle mass near the surface where it would be visible. The company sends out a free test kit to try it out. Unless there is a good way to permanently mark the sea cucumbers, I think it's worth a try. They test on different organisms to see if their product works.

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