

Abstract

Natural food of Monodactylus argenteus inhabits Negombo estuary was investigated. Possibility of culturing M. argenteus in net pens installed in earthen ponds at Kepungoda, Negombo was studied. Natural breeding cycle of the species was investigated and possibilities of inducing it in captivity was studied. More than 61% of the diet of M. argenteus consists of crustaceans and therefore ingredients with crustacean origin will be important as attractants to improve formulated feed made for this species. Culture of fingerlings of M. argenteus upto juvenile stage could be done profitably in net pens if construction of ponds is done properly. Mature female and male M. argenteus migrate to the sea for spawning and wild broodstock could be obtained from coastal water for breeding programmes. HCG is effective in inducing the breeding of M. argenteus in aquaria.