

# Crablet of Mangrove Crab, *Scylla olivacea* Rearing at the Different Salinity Regimes

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## Abstract

High cannibalisms in crablet of mangrove crab, *S. olivacea* stage was resulted lower juvenile crab production. The objectives of the research is to know the effectiveness of crablet rearing at the different salinity regimes in floating plastic glass individually to minimize cannibalism. Research was conducted at mud crab hatchery Marana Station of RICA Maros. Day-7 crablet produced from a hatchery, and then reared individually in plastic glass provided with small holes in glass to enter water inside the glass. Crablet were stocked inside of the plastic glass individually, then it sets in a floating cage constructed with bamboo fenced, where a piece of styrofoam as they float in surface water in the aquarium. Nine aquariums each size 29×60×34.5 cm randomly was filled 30 L saline water with different salinity regimes, i. e. (A) 5 ppt, (B) 10 ppt, (C) 20 ppt, (D) 30 ppt. Each treatment in the three replications. Monitoring was conducted on growth increment (total weight and carapace width) and survival rate of crablet during one month rearing. Water quality monitored on dissolved oxygen, water temperature and alkalinity. Result of the research was showing that the highest growth increment of crablet was obtained in A treatment ( $0.74 \pm 0.13$  g) and significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with D treatment, but there was not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) with B ( $0.57 \pm 0.10$  g) and C treatment ( $0.61 \pm 0.15$  g). The carapace width was significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) between A and B, A and D, B and C, B and D, C and D. The highest of survival rate (100%) was obtained in C treatment and significant different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with A treatment ( $73.3 \pm 11.55\%$ ). However, there were not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) with B and D treatment.

**Keywords:** Crabbing; Crablet; Salinity; Growth; Survival rate

## Introduction

Mangrove crab, Genus *Scylla* is one of the fisheries commodities with high economic value in Asia Pacific region, there were found four species under genus *Scylla*, namely *S. serrata*, *S. transquebarica*, *S. olivacea* dan *S. paramamosain* by Keenan [1].

Mangrove crab growout has been conducted in some area of Indonesia, for instance, in brackishwater pond on the Cenranae mouth river, Bone Regency, South Sulawesi [2], Segara Anakan, Cilacap, Central Java [3] and in Muncar, Banyuwangi, East Java. Soft shell crab production was also developed in some area of Indonesia, such as Barru and Takalar regency, South Sulawesi. Whereas in Pemalang and Brebes regency, Central Java, beside produced soft shell crab also produced mud crab gonadal maturation [4]. Most of them the juvenile and unberried female of mud crab provided from crabbing in the wild.

Since 20 years ago an effort of research was conducted to find out mangrove crab seed production technique. However, complete technique for crablet production is still uncomfortable, cause of low percentage (<5%) of crablet production still and fluctuative. The newest research focused to give attention to the kind of container for megalops rearing. Gunarto [5,6] tested different kind of tanks for megalops rearing namely, (A) circular fiberglass tank volume 4 tons, (B) circular cement tank volume 4 tons, and (C) rectangular cement tank volume 4 ton, they found that the highest crablet-D7 production in A treatment ( $40.14 \pm 0.424\%$ ), followed by C treatment ( $34.65 \pm 11.101\%$ ) and the lowest in C treatment ( $22.675 \pm 0.954\%$ ).

Some constrains encountered in larvae rearing was larvae mortality caused by a bacterial infection such as *Vibrio harveyi* [7], unsynchronizing of zoea- 5 metamorphosis to the megalops, and low vitality of larvae cause mass mortality of megalops [7]. High cannibalisms in megalops also find out in crablet, juvenile and adult stages. Molt crab most often cannibalism by a unmolt crab. Research on seaweed, *Gracilaria* sp as

shelter in crablet rearing was observed that a half of bottom width spreaded with *Gracilaria* sp as a shelter was found the survival rate at 49.9% during the 30 days rearing, while without shelter, the survival rate at 23% [8-10]. From these data can be concluded that even though the shelter was used in crablet rearing, there were still resulted low survival rate of crablet. This research aimed to know the effectiveness of individually crablet rearing in plastic glass floating cages at the different salinity regimes.

## Material and Method

Research was conducted in mud crab hatchery of Pond Station Marana, RICA Maros. Crablet of *Scylla olivacea* provided from hatchery at the range weight 0.04-0.09 g and carapace width 5-10 mm, individually stocked in plastic glass, then they are settled in a floating cage constructed with bamboo fenced, where a piece of styrofoam as the float in surface water in the aquarium. Each floating cage in each aquarium stocked with five crablet in five plastic glasses (Figure 1). A total of twelve of aquariums each size 29×60×34.5 cm were filled of brackish water pond maintained at different salinity regimes as the treatment, namely: (A) 5 ppt, (B) 10 ppt, (C) 20 ppt and (D) 30 ppt. Each treatment in the three replications.

Small copfish was given as feed *ad libitum* to the crablet in the

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every morning at 8.00-9.00, and the rest of feed was picked out in every morning before fresh feed was given to the crablet. Water exchange at 5% of total volume of water in each aquarium was conducted at every two days. Some biological parameters were monitored be weekly mainly in body weight increment, length and width carapace. Crablet survival rate in each treatment was monitored after one month reared. Water quality monitored in situ, namely water temperature, salinity, pH. 300 mL water sample from each aquarium brought to the laboratory for analyzing ammonium, nitrite and total organic matter (TOM). Complete Random Design was applied to the growth data obtained followed by a Duncan test to know significantly different among the treatments tested.

## Result and Discussion

The crablet *S. olivacea* growth was shown in Figure 1. In the first two weeks until one month rearing showed that crablet in A treatment, salinity 5 ppt tend to grow faster compared than that of the crablet grow in the other treatments. The mean weight of the crablet after one month reared individually inside the plastic glass was 0.80 g/pieces (A), 0.64 g/pieces (B), 0.71 g/pieces (C) and 0.54 g/pieces (D) treatment.

The daily growth rate was 0.024 g/day (A), 0.018 g/day (B), 0.021 g/day (C) and 0.015 g/day (D). Statistical analysis showed that the daily growth rate of the crablet in A treatment showed significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with D treatment. However, there was not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) with B and C treatments. B and C treatment were also were not significantly different with D treatment ( $P > 0.05$ ) (Table 1). Earlier studies, Gunarto was observed that crablet weight at 0.31-0.52 g reared at the salinity 25 ppt during one month was resulted grow increment in the range 1.69-1.98 g (Figure 2).

Mia and Syah [9] in Bangladesh was observed that *S. serrata* juvenile with initial weight 1.10-1.95 g and the highest growth increment obtained at the crablet reared at the salinity 25 ppt, with specific growth rate at 4.46%/day and showed significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with the crablet growth increment at the salinity 10 and 5 ppt. However, there were not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) with salinity 20 and 15 ppt. Junaedah [10] declared that crab seed *S. paramamosain* reared in the soil substrat resulted significant growth rate ( $P < 0.01$ ) compared than that of crab seed reared in the san substrat.

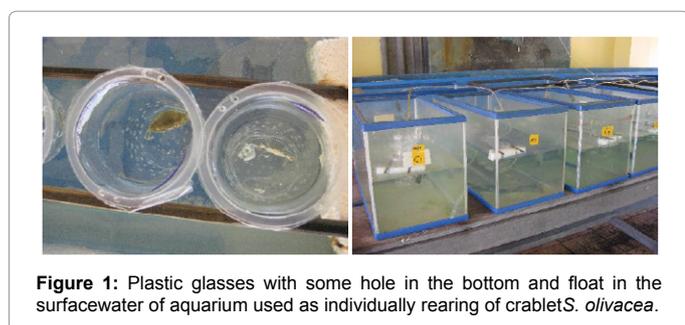


Figure 1: Plastic glasses with some hole in the bottom and float in the surfacewater of aquarium used as individually rearing of crablet *S. olivacea*.

Mangrove crab, *S. olivacea* morpho and ecologically different with *S. serrate* as well as *S. paramamosain*. *S. olivacea* in the wild obtained in mouth river area and mangrove estuary with dominated by *Nypa* sp, as was seen in mouth river on Cenranae river, Bone Regency, South Sulawesi. Lewis [11], claimed that *S. olivacea* are suitable species for stocking enhancement in mangrove area, because of their habitat in hole of mangrove area, while *S. paramamosain* and *S. serrate* their habitat more width reach to the sea area.

The mouth river usually with salinity lower than 30 ppt, by that reason *S. olivacea* commonly found in the lower salinity area. This phenomenon was proven by fast growth rate of crablet *S. olivacea* at the salinity 5 ppt and showed significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with crablet *S. olivacea* growth rate at the salinity 30 ppt. By this research can be summarized that the good salinity for crablet *S. olivacea* growth (0.07-0.08 g/pieces was at the range 5-20 ppt. Mangrove crab, *S. olivacea* presumably like tiger shrimp, *Penaeus monodon* in the salinity adaptation process, where both of them were *euryhaline species*. The growth rate of tiger shrimp at the salinity 10-20 ppt was higher compared than that of the growth rate at the salinity 30 ppt [12].

The highest crablet survival rate was obtained in the C treatment (100%), then followed by B and D treatment and the lowest was A treatment (73.3%) (Figure 2). The lowest of the crablet survival rate should not be affected to the highest of crablet growth rate such as in A treatment. It caused not any competition on the feed and space, because crablet reared individually in plastic glass, except if any crablet enter to the neighbour plastic glass and was occurring cannibalisms among crablet and resulted one or both of the crablet were dead. Junaedah [10] was found that crablet survival rate significantly affected by a kind of substrate, where san substrate resulted significantly higher survival rate of crablet ( $P < 0.05$ ) compared than that crablet reared with muddy substrate. Rearing crablet using seaweed, *Gracillaria* sp as a shelter, Gunarto [8] found that a half of surface bottom with *Gracillaria* sp as a shelter resulted survival rate  $49.99 \pm 23.56\%$ , was higher compare than that 100% of surface bottom spread with *Gracillaria* sp the crablet survival rate  $33.33 \pm 0\%$ , while without shelter, the crablet survival rate was  $24.99 \pm 11.78\%$ . Based on this data can be concluded that individually crablet rearing in plastic glass resulted higher survival rate compared than that of crablet rearing using *Gracillaria* sp as a shelter (Figure 3).

In A treatment, crablet mortality was caused by molt failure. Greenaway [13], stated that in crab molting was occurred calcium ion transportation from and to carapace exdyses, where chitine biosynthesis and degradation was occurred. Beside calcium, some hormonal also required in molting process, for instances chitinase, chitobiase, carbonic anhidrase, alcalin phosphatase,  $Ca \pm$  ATPase, proteinase, trace element dan glicogen [14,15]. In A treatment where salinity only 5 ppt may calcium ion and hormonal required in molting process insufficient to support complete molting process, so that some crablets failure molt and furthermore die. The different condition, when the crablet reared at the salinity 20 ppt, may calcium and hormonal

Treatment	Initial weight (g)	Final weight (g)	Growth increment (g)	Initial carapace width (cm)	Final carapace width (cm)	Growth of carapace width (cm)
A=5 ppt	0.07 ± 0.01	0.80 ± 0.13	0.74 ± 0.13 <sup>a</sup>	0.90 ± 0.02	1.46 ± 0.01	0.56 ± 0.01 <sup>a</sup>
B=10 ppt	0.07 ± 0.03	0.64 ± 0.10	0.57 ± 0.10 <sup>ab</sup>	0.92 ± 0.01	1.32 ± 0.08	0.39 ± 0.08 <sup>c</sup>
C=20 ppt	0.08 ± 0.02	0.71 ± 0.13	0.61 ± 0.15 <sup>ab</sup>	0.94 ± 0.03	1.46 ± 0.04	0.52 ± 0.04 <sup>ad</sup>
D=30 ppt	0.08 ± 0.03	0.54 ± 0.06	0.48 ± 0.09 <sup>b</sup>	0.93 ± 0.02	1.20 ± 0.02	0.27 ± 0.02 <sup>b</sup>

Different letter at the same column are shown significantly different at a level 5% ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Table 1: Weight increment (g) and carapace width (cm) of crablet, *S. olivacea* after reared during one month at the different salinity regimes.

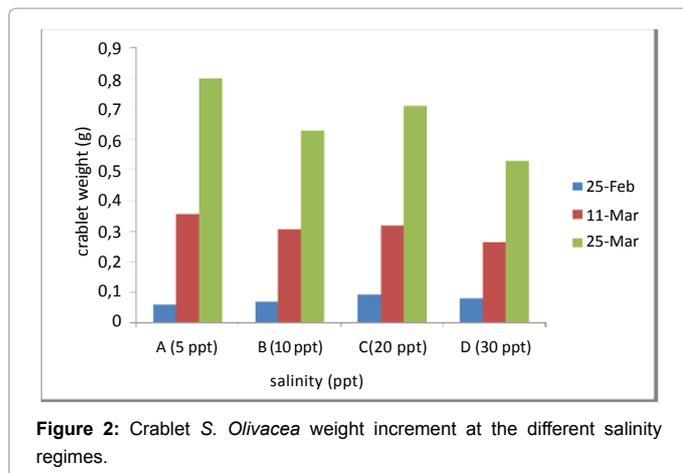


Figure 2: Crablet *S. Olivacea* weight increment at the different salinity regimes.

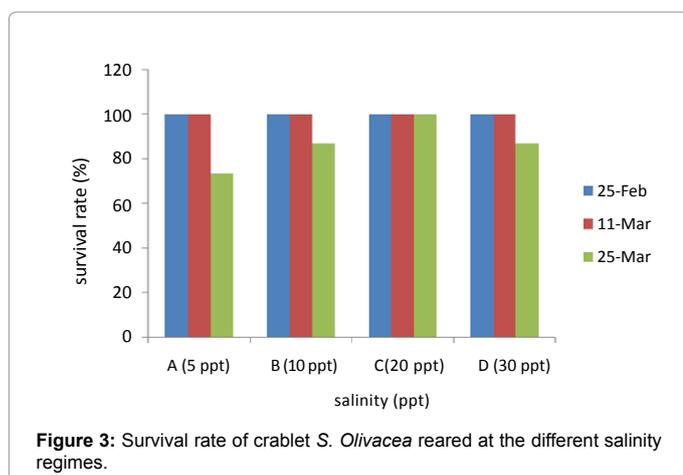


Figure 3: Survival rate of crablet *S. Olivacea* reared at the different salinity regimes.

Treatment	Water quality (°C)	pH	Dissolved Oxygen (ppm)	Alkalinity (ppm)
A (5 ppt)	25-25.8	8.1-8.8	4.6-5.7	104.6-160
B (10 ppt)	25-26.0	8.1-8.9	4.9-5.6	104.6-160
C (20 ppt)	25.1-26.0	8.0-8.9	4.5-5.3	139.5-204.9
D (30 ppt)	25.1-25.8	8.0-8.7	4.4-5.1	91.6-213.6

Table 2: Some water quality parameters in crablet rearing at the different salinity regimes.

amount in the crablet were sufficient to support complete molting in all crablet, those was resulted crablet survival rate 100% in one month rearing.

### Water quality

Some water quality parameter monitored were presented in Table 2. Water temperature as the environmental factor controlling to the metabolism acceleration process, oxygen consumption, growth and survival of organisms cultured [16]. Water temperature in the morning at 8.00-9.00 showing not significantly different among the four treatments tested, namely 25-25.8°C (A), 25- 26°C (B), 25.1-26°C (C) and 25.1-25.8°C (D). Water pH relatively stable at the range 8.1-8.8 (A), 8.1-8.9 (B), 8.0-8.9 (C) and 8.0-8.7 (D). Dissolved oxygen at 4.6-5.7 ppm (A), 4.9-5.6 ppm (B), 4.5-5.3 ppm (C) and 4.4-5.1 ppm (D) were seemed high it caused by the addition of aeration supplied to the each aquarium. The relationship between oxygen consumption and salinity regimes for crab rearing was studied by Karim and Syahrul

[17] and they found that the lowest oxygen consumption was 0.23 mg/g body weight/hour at the rearing salinity 25 ppt and the high oxygen consumption at 0.37 mg/g body weight/hour at salinity 5 ppt. Dissolved oxygen in all treatments were >4 mg/L, and that condition was not a limiting factor to the crablet growth.

Alkalinity range was 105-160 ppm (A), 105-160 ppm (B), 139-205 ppm (C) and 92-214 ppm (D). The suitable alkalinity for crablet rearing can be interpreted on the relationship between alkalinity and the crablet survival rate in each treatment. It was performed in C treatment at the range 139-205 ppm, where crablet survival rate attains 100% and not any crablet failure molt during one month rearing.

### Conclusion

The salinity 5 ppt was performed highest growth weight, while salinity 20 ppt was performed highest survival rate. The salinity ranged 5-20 ppt could be better for crablet *S. olivacea* rearing to increase growth weight and survival rate.

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