

**Proceedings of the Summer Institute in Recent Advances  
on the Study of Marine Fish Eggs and Larvae**

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EVALUATION OF THE CHARACTERS OF EGGS AND LARVAE

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Aim: To evaluate the characters of fish eggs and larvae.

The following characters may be evaluated in relation to the stage of development:-

(A) Eggs:

- (i) Total diameter.
- (ii) Yolk diameter.
- (iii) Extent of perivitelline space.
- (iv) Pattern of pigmentation on the embryo, yolk, oilglobule.
- (v) Ornamentation on the chorion.

(B) Larvae and Postlarvae

- (i) Number and disposition of myomeres.
- (ii) Stage of developmental features in relation to the length of the specimen.
- (iii) Pattern of pigmentation.
- (iv) Origin of various fins.
- (v) Bifurcation of caudal fin.
- (vi) Appearance of rays and spines in fins and the variations in their number.
- (vii) Relative position of dorsal, anal, pelvic and pectoral fins in relation to the length of the

specimen and the stage of development.

(C) Juveniles:

All the morphometric, meristic and colouration pattern of the specimen, as applied in ichthyotaxonomy (vide Practical, IV) are to be taken in to account.