

THE GROWTH AND REPRODUCTION OF  
SEPTIFER VIRGATUS (WEIGMANN)

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A Thesis  
Presented to  
the Faculty of the Graduate School  
University of San Carlos

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In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Science in Biology

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by  
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## ABSTRACT

The growth and reproduction of a population of the bivalve, Septifer virgatus has been studied from July 1975 to June 1976. Results of this study reveal that Septifer virgatus spawn throughout the whole year and that the animals do not spawn at the same time. Temperature and salinity apparently do not have a pronounced effect on the reproductive cycle of Septifer virgatus.

Sexes of this species are separate. The gonads of the males are creamy white while those of the females are yellow orange to red orange. Repeated examination of Septifer virgatus of all sizes indicated that both sexes develop a gonad upon attaining a shell length of 17 mm. Fully mature animals could be found starting with a shell length of 20 mm.

Growth studies did not bring about positive results. Repeated efforts to collect spats by using an artificial substrate was totally futile. The artificial substrates left near the mussel beds were always removed either by the people visiting the place or by strong waves.

The true relationship between shell length and tissue weight in this species can be described by the equation  $Y = aX^b$  or by  $\log \hat{Y} = \log a + b \log X$ .

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