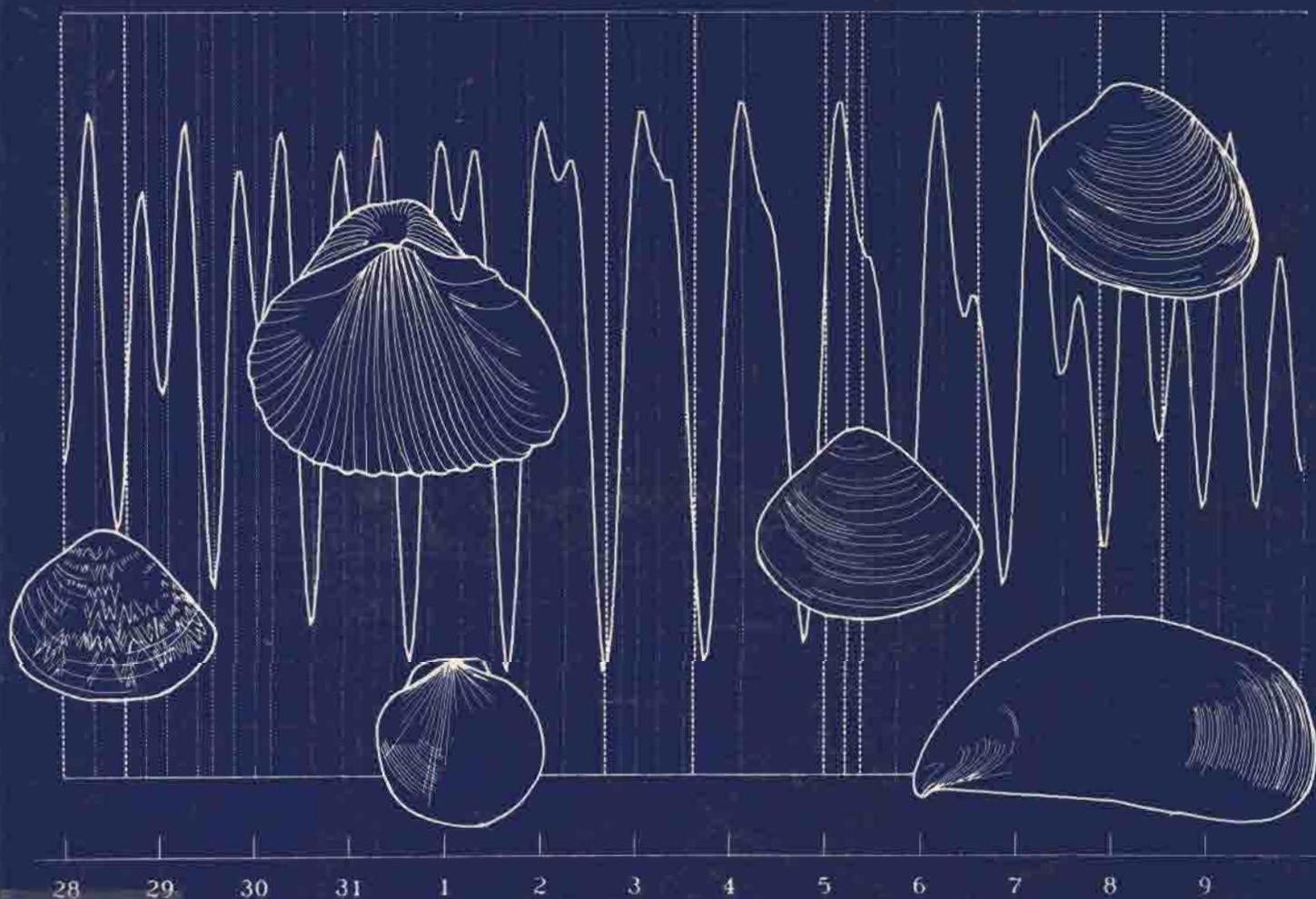


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Determination and Comparison of Bivalve Growth, with Emphasis on Thailand and Other Tropical Areas

J.M. Vakily



ICLARM

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LIVING AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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FOREWORD

Over the last decade, ICLARM has devoted considerable attention to bivalves, an important source of animal protein in tropical developing countries.

There appears to be, moreover, a large potential for increased production from bivalve culture - if certain stumbling blocks, especially concerning health concerns and marketing, can be resolved through research on appropriate farming systems.

Such research will have to rely on broad-based knowledge of the biological performance of various candidate species. This report, based on a doctoral thesis which I supervised, and which was submitted in mid-1991 at the Institut für Meereskunde, Universität Kiel, Germany, presents elements for such broad-based knowledge on the growth performance of bivalves.

As the reader will notice, this work consists both of a localized, very detailed study of growth in two species, based on field work conducted by Dr. Vakily in the inner Gulf of Thailand, and generalizations based on a comparative study of the growth performance of 77 species and 190 populations of bivalve scattered throughout the world, for many of which he estimated the first sets of growth parameters.

The reason for the two "axes" in this work is that it represents a test of a general theory of growth in bivalves which required both "depth", and application to a large number of cases.

As the reader will notice, this theory passed the test, enabling a number of valuable inferences to be made on the growth performance of little studied species of tropical and other bivalves.

Dr. Vakily is to be congratulated for completing a study of this scope.

DR. DANIEL PAULY

Director

Capture Fisheries Management
Program

International Center for Living
Aquatic Resources Management

Manila, June 1992