

THE FOOD, FEEDING AND FECUNDITY OF THE GIANT FRESHWATER PRAWN  
MACROBRACHIUM ROSENBERGII FROM NATURAL HABITATS IN SRI LANKA

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The food, feeding and fecundity of M. rosenbergii were studied from specimens caught from the three main Macrobrachium fishery areas in Sri Lanka.

The food of the prawns of all size groups studied consisted mainly of detritus, plant and animal matter of which detritus formed the main food component. 20-40% of the food was of animal matter while 10-20% was of plant matter. Sand particles possibly ingested accidentally formed about 3-5%. Some selective feeding was observed in different size groups.

The fecundity ranged from 19,000 to 137,000 in prawns measuring 12-31 cm. Fecundity showed a linear relationship to body length, carapace length and body weight.

The egg diameter increased with increase in body length of the spawner.