



ICAR-CIBA - a nodal R&D agency working in brackishwater aquaculture for the past three decades with a vision of environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially acceptable aquaculture technologies, system interventions, technology backstopping and policy inputs by the institute, contributing to economic benefits of the sector which has already recorded annual export revenue of Rs. 20,000 crores apart from domestic consumption.

SILVER MOONY

Monodactylus argenteus

Silver moony (Monos), *Monodactylus argenteus*, a species under family Monodactylidae is a brackishwater ornamental fish, having high demand in the ornamental industry. This species being euryhaline, can thrive in wide range of habitats, comprising the marine water, brackishwater and freshwater. They are commonly known as 'silver moony' or 'monos' or 'diamond fish' or 'sea angel' because of their attractive body colour and shape. The fish adapts well in aquaria and readily accepts artificial feeds. Its schooling behavior, tolerance to sudden fluctuation in salinity, high market price, and compatibility with other species (marine, brackish and freshwater) in aquariums makes it popular among all types of aquarium hobbyists. For the first time in the World, But the trade of this species is fully dependent on the wildseed resource, which leads to the over-exploitation of natural stock. Inorder to address these issues ICAR-CIBA has developed comprehensive technology package for captive breeding and seed production of Silver Moony for the first time in the world..



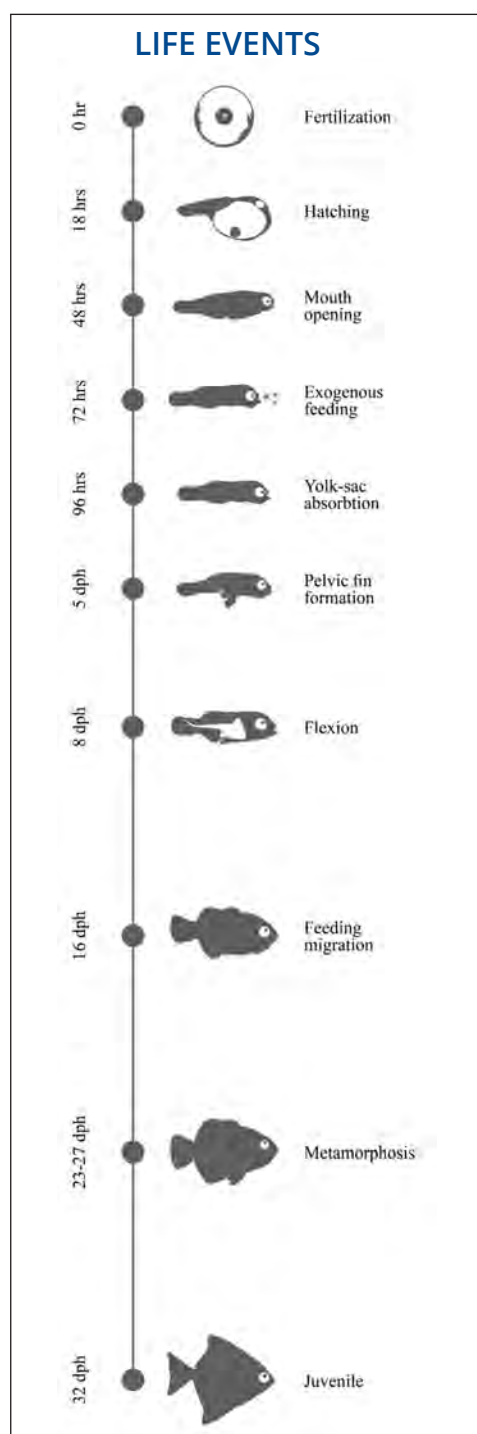
Salient features

- *Monodactylus argenteus* is highly priced ornamental fish and well recognized in freshwater, brackishwater and marine aquaria.
- Their attractive silvery body color with light yellow fins and diamond shape body making this species more lucrative in the aquarium.
- It is an omnivore; feeding on plankton, smaller aquatic animals (decapods) and detritus in nature and quickly adapt to artificial feed in culture.
- The cost of marketable sized (4 to 6 cm) fish is Rs. 20 - 40 per fish.
- This is one of the compatible species that gets along very well, when kept together in aquaria with other freshwater and marine species.



The Technology

- ICAR-CIBA has been standardized its seed production technology since February 2019, with a production capacity of over 1 lakh seeds per year.
- Its successful spawning and seed production is achieved through captive broodstock development and hormonal manipulation.
- The technology for seed production, nursery rearing and grow out production have been standardized and are under various stages of technology transfer.



Technology Benefits

- The sustainable hatchery production technology helps to reduce the pressure on the wild stock.
- Improves the livelihood of ornamental fish farmers.

