

## Captive breeding of Kite butterfly fish (*Parachaetodon ocellatus*)

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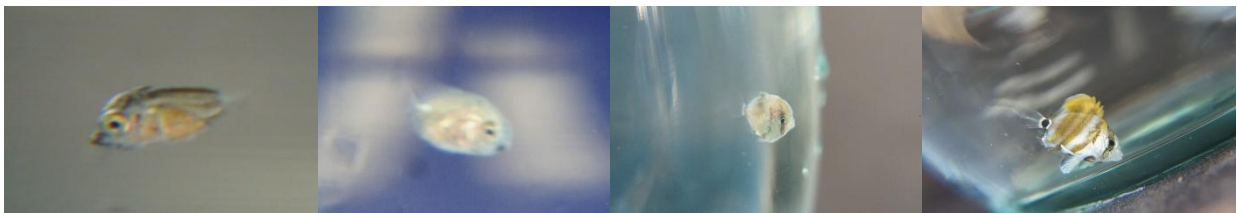
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Kite butterfly fish not only inhabit in coral reef areas but are also found in small school in rocky shore and sea grass bed. Their color is rather pale compare with their relatives those inhabiting in coral reefs. The juvenile fish, collected from bamboo stake trap in inner gulf of Thailand in 2013, were raised in 3-m<sup>3</sup> recirculation tank at SCFRDC's hatchery. They were fed with fresh feed, *i.e.* shrimps, squids and green mussels. When the fish grew up to adult stage, sand worms were added to their feed at around 5-10% by weight to enhance gonad maturation. Male and female could not be identified with naked eye observation.



Broodstocks in recirculation tank



18 day

30 day

45 day

58 day

The fish spawned naturally at nighttime. Their eggs were semi-buoyant. The fry were fed with rotifer that enriched with commercial essential fatty acid. Survival rate of the first batch was rather low due to some unexpected incidences while nursing, of which only 8 fry survived. They formed 4 black bars within 45 days after hatch out. The 1<sup>st</sup> bar was across the eye, the 2<sup>nd</sup> bar was formed from ventral fin upward, the 3<sup>rd</sup> bar was formed from dorsal fin downward, and the 4<sup>th</sup> bar was on caudal peduncle. All of them completed their metamorphosis into tiny yellowish butterfly fish within 57 days.