

Life Cycle



1 DAY OLD
SHELL LENGTH 0.2 MM
ACTUAL SIZE

DEVELOPING VELIGERS
(PLANKTONIC LARVAE)
SWIM IN SURFACE WATERS
FEEDING ON PHYTOPLANKTON



21-28 DAYS
SHELL LENGTH 1.0 MM
ACTUAL SIZE

QUEEN CONCH ARE FOUND IN BERMUDA,
SOUTHERN FLORIDA, THE BAHAMAS,
THROUGHOUT THE CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL
AMERICA AND SOUTH TO BRAZIL.



6 MONTHS
40-70 MM



DURING METAMORPHOSIS
VELIGERS LOOSE THEIR
LOBES, SETTLING INTO
SAND OR ALGAE

4+ WEEKS
1.2 MM
ACTUAL SIZE

LAURENCIA

MOST CONCH SMALLER THAN
10 MM BURY DURING THE
DAYTIME AND EMERGE AT
NIGHT TO FEED ON ALGAE

SEAGRASS

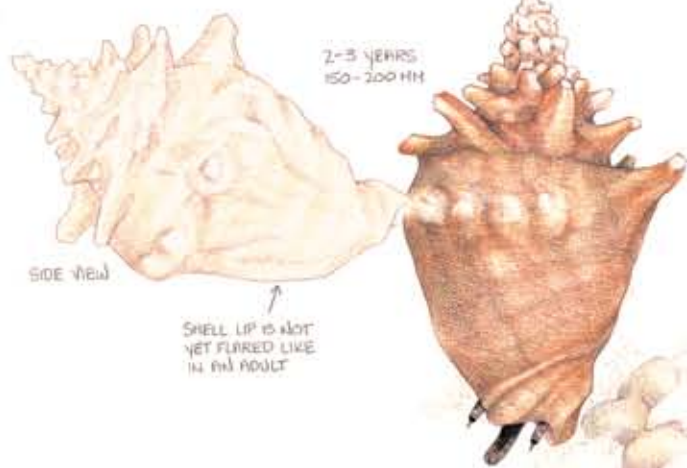


BRIDOPHORA

CONCH GRAZE ON LAURENCIA,
BRIDOPHORA, AND OTHER ALGAE
FOUND IN SEAGRASS MEADOWS

1-2 YEARS
80-150 MM

AT THIS STAGE JUVENILE CONCH
TEND TO LIVE IN SHALLOW WATER
(LESS THAN 5M)

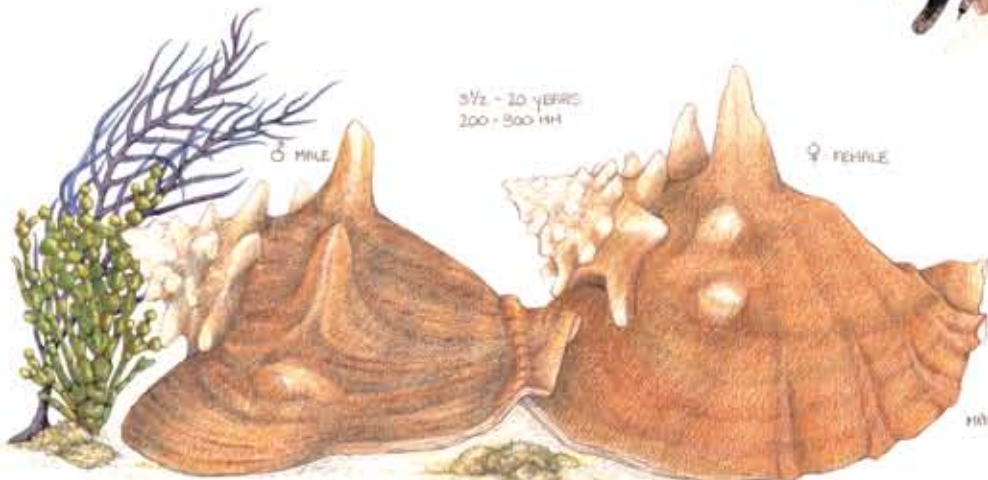


SIDE VIEW

SHELL LIP IS NOT
YET FLARED LIKE
IN AN ADULT

2-3 YEARS
150-200 MM

OLDER CONCH FREQUENTLY
MIGRATE TO DEEPER
SEAGRASS BEDS AND
ALGAL PLAINS



3 1/2 - 20 YEARS
200-300 MM

♀ FEMALE

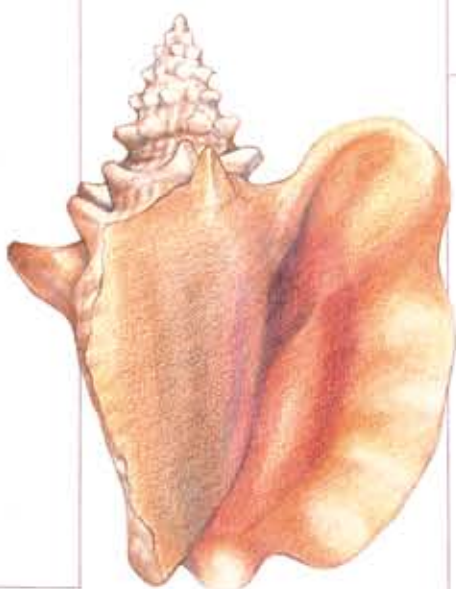
MATING CONCH

SHELL LIP FLARES AT ABOUT 3 1/2 YEARS; AT
THIS TIME THE CONCH IS NEAR SEXUAL MATURITY



FEMALES LAY EGG MASSES
(5-10 PER SUMMER) ON
CLEAN CORAL SAND

THE CRESCENT-SHAPED EGG
MASS CONTAINS ABOUT
300,000 EGGS. IT IS A
SINGLE STRAND CAMOUFLAGED
WITH SAND



Queen Conch

Strombus gigas

Predators

FEW CAN CONSUME ADULT CONCH
BUT ALL EAT JUVENILES



SPOTTED EAGLE RAY



LOGGERHEAD TURTLE



OCTOPUS

FORCUM FISH



SPINY LOBSTER

TURBOT FISH



SOUTHERN STINGRAY



HERMIT CRAB



BLUE CRAB

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