日本海におけるソデイカ卵塊の初記録

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1. はじめに

ソデイカはツツイカ目ソデイカ科の外洋性大型種である.分布の縁辺である日本海には、初夏から秋に対馬海峡を経由して日本海に来遊し、水温の低下とともに産卵せずに死滅すると考えられているが、来遊や成長等を含めてその生態には不明な点が多い.

本種の卵(塊)は、外洋性頭足類としてはその詳細が確認されている数少ないものの一つで、世界各地の熱帯亜熱帯海域(わが国では沖縄周辺や黒潮流域)からの採集が報告されている。しかしながら、対馬暖流域(東シナ海北部・日本海)ではこれまで採集例がなかった。

2. 卵塊の発見

2004年の10月29日から11月5日の間に,日本海(兵庫県沖)で卵塊が相次いで4個見付かった. 卵塊は,浮遊性,ソーセージ状(長さ60-120cm,直径13-15cm),透明のゼラチン質集塊の表面に桃色または紫色の卵が2列の螺旋状に配置されていた. 卵塊中の卵数は,約16000-23000であった. 4つの卵塊中の卵(Fig.1)は発生段階がそれぞれ異なっていたが,胚の器官発生期以降に確認される外套部の多くの色素胞やその後に表れる触腕基部および頭部の色素胞が特徴的であり,形態学的な諸特徴が既報告と一致したことから,ソデイカと同定された.

発見時の海況は、表面水温 20·22℃,塩分 33.3·33.7 で、水温躍層は 50·70m 深にあった.発見海域に強い海流が見られなかったこと、卵が受精後間もない段階にあったこと等から、採集海域周辺で産卵されたものと考えられた.今回の発見につながった要因としては、(1)日本海における近年の高い資源水準、(2)卵塊発見に向けた努力量の増加、(3)大型成熟個体の高比率、等が考えられた.

3. 飼育によるふ化稚イカの観察

水温 20℃ (≒現場水温) での飼育の結果,全ての卵塊において発生段階の進行とふ化が確認できた.ただし,25℃条件下 (≒産卵最適水温) との比較では,発生段階

の進行とふ化に要した日数が長かった. ソデイカの稚イカは, ふ化直後には沈降し数日後に浮遊(中立)した. 卵黄はふ化後次第に減少し, 最長でふ化後7日間生存した. 初期餌料は不明であった. また, 平衡石の初期形成と輪紋の確認ができた(Fig.2). ふ化した稚イカがその後も日本海で生存・成長が可能かどうかは不明であり, 今後の詳細な調査研究が必要である.

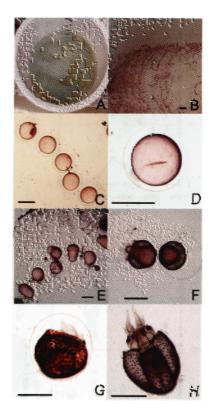


Fig.1 Egg mass (A·B), egg (C·D), embryo (E·C) and hatchling (H) of *T* rhombus Scale bar = 1 mm (B·cm).

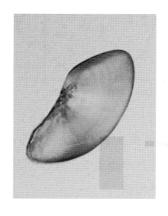


Fig.2 Statolith of a six days old hatchling. Major axis ca. $105 \,\mu$ m, minor axis ca. $50 \,\mu$ m.

First record of planktonic egg masses of the diamond squid, Thysanoteuthis rhombus Troschel, in the Sea of Japan

(Plankton and Benthos Research in press)

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Abstract This paper provides the first evidence that *Thysanoteuthis rhombus* spawns in the Sea of Japan. Five planktonic egg masses were collected in the southern Sea of Japan during 29 October to 24 November 2004 and transported to onshore laboratories for observation. Part of each egg mass was reared in indoor, aerated tanks supplied with filtered running seawater. The egg masses (ca. 60-120 cm in total length and 13-15 cm in diameter) were cylindrical with rounded ends and consisted of a resilient, transparent gelatinous core with a pair of egg rows forming spiral loops around the core. The embryos had dome-shaped mantles covered with many chromatophores and slowly rotated inside the spherical egg capsules. Hatching was observed in all the egg masses 3-10 days after collection. Morphological characteristics of the egg masses, eggs and embryos, especially the large number of chromatophores present in the early embryonic stages, agreed with the descriptions in previous studies. Near the collections sites, surface water temperature and salinity ranged 18-22°C and 33.3-33.7, respectively, both of which were lower than the optimum conditions for *T. rhombus* spawning. The early embryonic stages of the egg masses at collection such as cleavage and slow currents at the sea surface suggest the egg masses were spawned near the collection sites. Increased abundance of T. rhombus in the Sea of Japan and increased sampling efforts were proposed as two possible causes for the egg-mass discoveries.

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Laboratory observations on the early life stages of the diamond squid *Thysanoteuthis rhombus*

(Journal of Molluscan Studies in press)

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Abstract The early life stages of the diamond squid *Thysanoteuthis rhombus* from early embryogenesis to post–hatching (0-7 days old) were observed through laboratory incubation using egg masses collected in the southern Sea of Japan. The egg diameter and mantle length increased during embryonic development through hatching. Mantle-length growth was linear over time, and the growth rate was significantly higher at 25°C than at 20°C. The inner yolk was located on the dorsal side of mantle cavity and increased in volume through hatching. Immediately after they hatched, the hatchlings remained on the bottom of culture plates with their ventral sides facing up, but 1-2 days after hatching, they began to swim with their dorsal sides facing up. Feeding experiments were conducted, but none of the hatchlings fed. Statolith growth increments were shown to form daily. Ontogenetic changes that occur from fertilization through post-hatching are discussed.

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