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AQUACULTURE & FISHERIES INNOVATION LAB

## RESEARCH REPORTS

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**Title:** Larval development of the Mexican Snook, *Centropomus poeyi* (Teleostei: Centropomidae)

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**Abstract:** We document for the first time the early ontogeny of *Centropomus poeyi* based on captive raised material representing 0-19 days posthatch (dph). The achievement of early developmental landmarks (i.e., yolk-sac depletion, flexion, development of fins) and changes in pigmentation are described (1.4 mm NL-10.6 mm SL; 0-19 dph) and documented for a subset of individuals using high quality photographs. The ontogeny of the viscerocranium is also described (2.4 mm NL-10.6 mm SL; 6-19 dph). Development in *C. poeyi* occurs over a short period with attainment of the juvenile stage (i.e., full complement of fin rays present in each fin) occurring by 6.9 mm SL. The ontogeny of external pigmentation in *C. poeyi* is marked by two trends throughout growth: (1) a decrease in pigmentation dorsally; and (2) an increase in pigmentation ventrally along the midline. Development of the viscerocranium begins with the appearance of the maxilla and dentary in individuals of 2.4 mm NL,

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coinciding with the depletion of the yolk-sac. By 10.6 mm SL all bones of the viscerocranium are present and teeth are present on all teeth-bearing bones of the adult. Aspects of early development in *C. poeyi* are compared with the congeners *C. undecimalis* and *C. parallelus*.

This abstract is excerpted from the original paper, which was in *Neotropical Ichthyology* (2018), 16 (1).