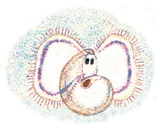
# Queen Conch

## *Strombus gigas*

## Life Cycle

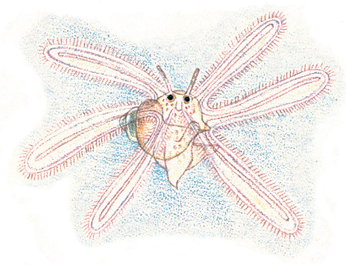


1 DAY OLD
SHELL LENGTH 0.3 MM
·← ACTUAL SIZE

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

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

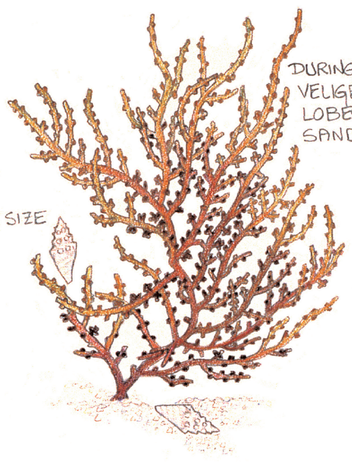




21-28 DAYS
SHELL LENGTH 1.0 MM
o← ACTUAL SIZE

6 MONTHS
40-70 MM





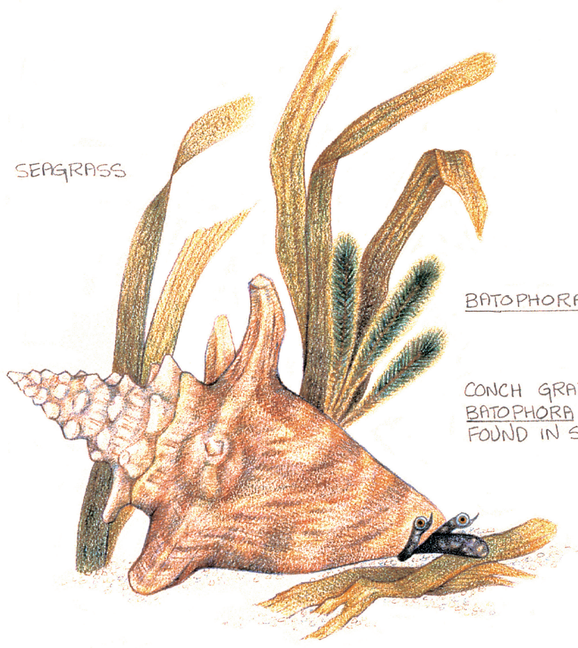
4+ WEEKS
1.2 MM
o← ACTUAL SIZE

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

LAURENCIA

MOST CONCH SMALLER THAN 70 MM BURY DURING THE DAYTIME AND EMERGE AT NIGHT TO FEED ON ALGAE

SEAGRASS



BATOPHORA

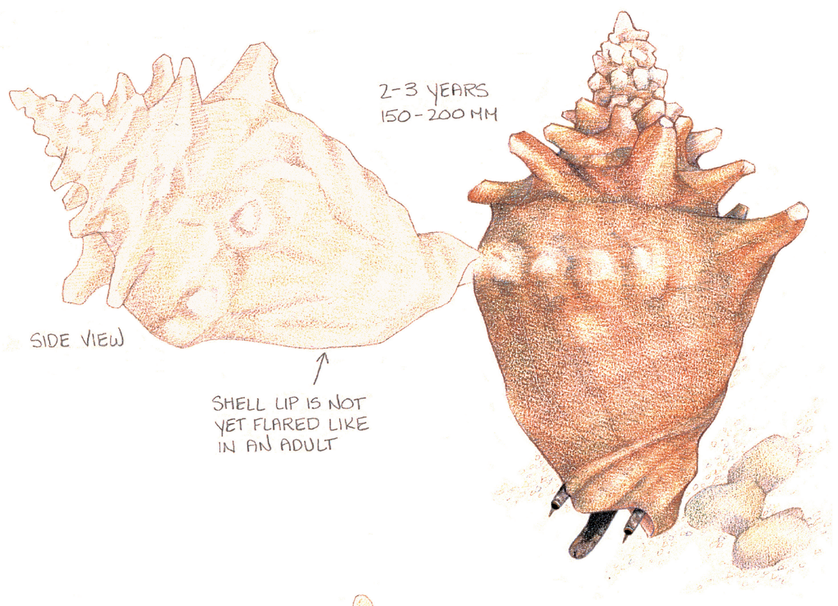
CONCH GRAZE ON LAURENCIA, BATOPHORA, AND OTHER ALGAE FOUND IN SEAGRASS MEADOWS

1-2 YEARS
80-150 MM

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

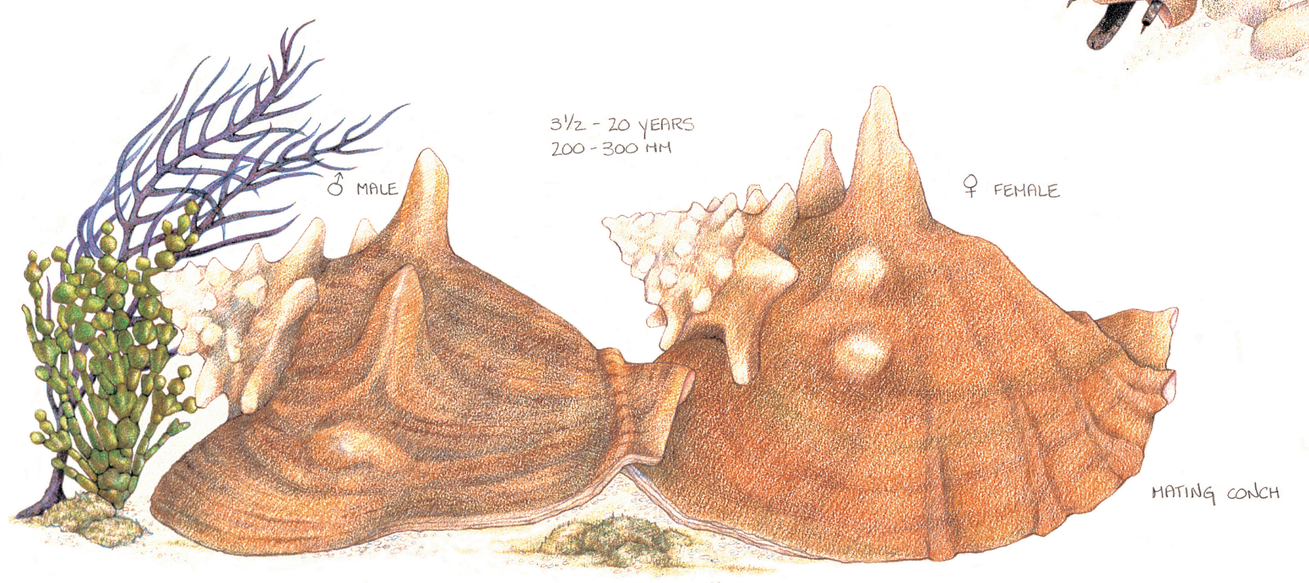
OLDER CONCH FREQUENTLY MIGRATE TO DEEPER SEAGRASS BEDS AND ALGAL PLAINS

2-3 YEARS
150-200 MM



SIDE VIEW

SHELL LIP IS NOT YET FLARED LIKE IN AN ADULT



3½ - 20 YEARS
200-300 MM

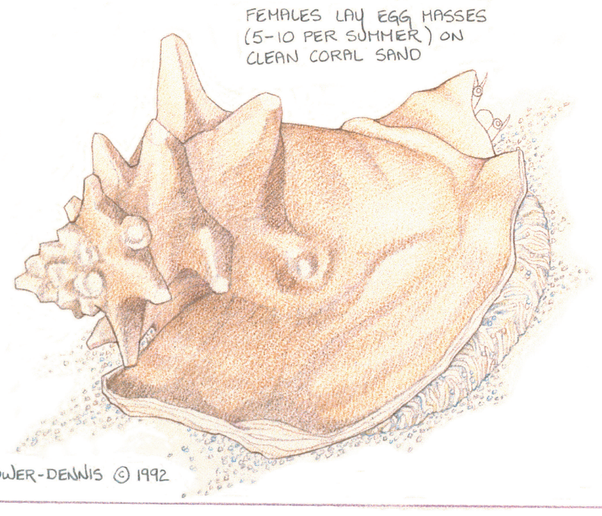
♂ MALE

♀ FEMALE

MATING CONCH

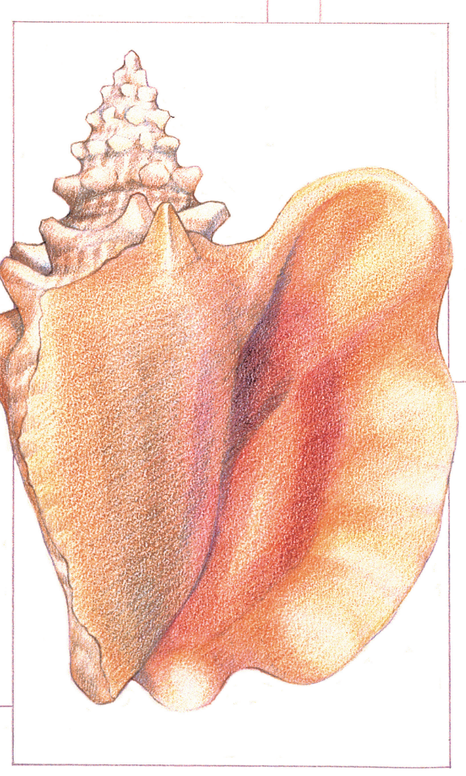
SHELL LIP FLARES AT ABOUT 3½ YEARS; AT THIS TIME THE CONCH IS NEAR SEXUAL MATURITY

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

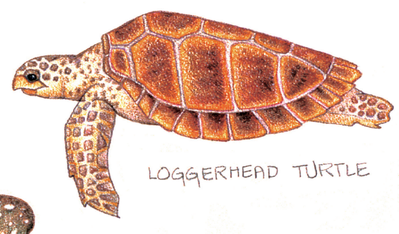


## Predators

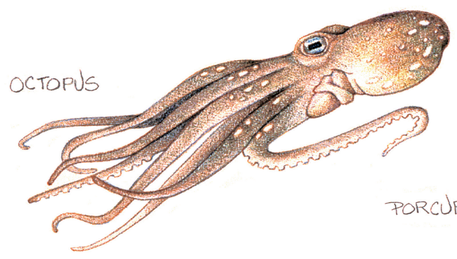
FEW CAN CONSUME ADULT CONCH BUT ALL EAT JUVENILES



SPOTTED EAGLE RAY

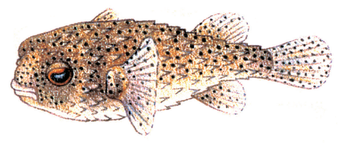


LOGGERHEAD TURTLE



OCTOPUS

PORCUPINEFISH

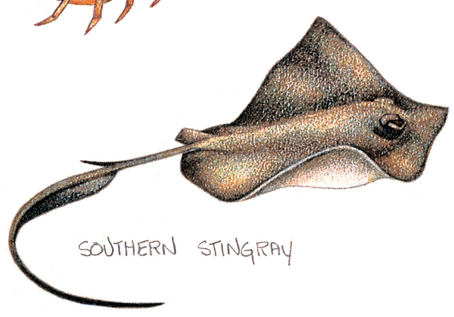




SPINY LOBSTER

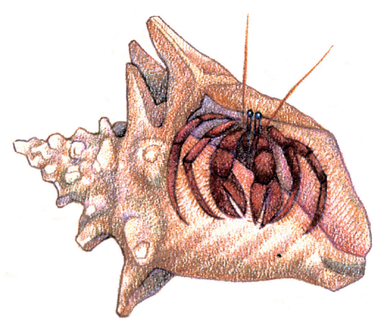
TULIP SNAIL

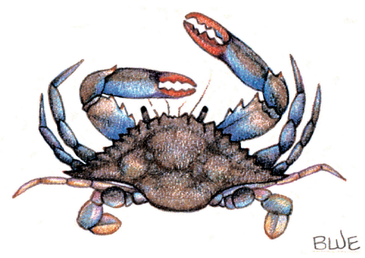




SOUTHERN STINGRAY

HERMIT CRAB





BLUE CRAB

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