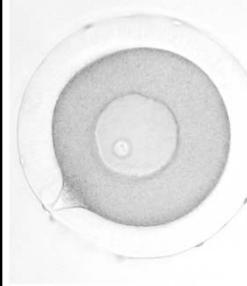


## *In vitro* fertilization of sea cucumbers, a new method for boosting aquaculture production

Igor Eeckhaut, Aline Léonet, Ruddy Wattiez, Michel Jangoux, Thierry Lavitra and Richard Rasolofonirina

**UMONS**  
Université de Mons

THESE DE DOCTORAT  
présentée en vue de l'obtention du  
grade de Docteur en Sciences Biologique



Caractérisation d'un agent induisant la maturation ovocytaire chez des holothuries aspidochirotes dont *Holothuria scabra* (Jaeger, 1833), espèce à haute valeur commerciale

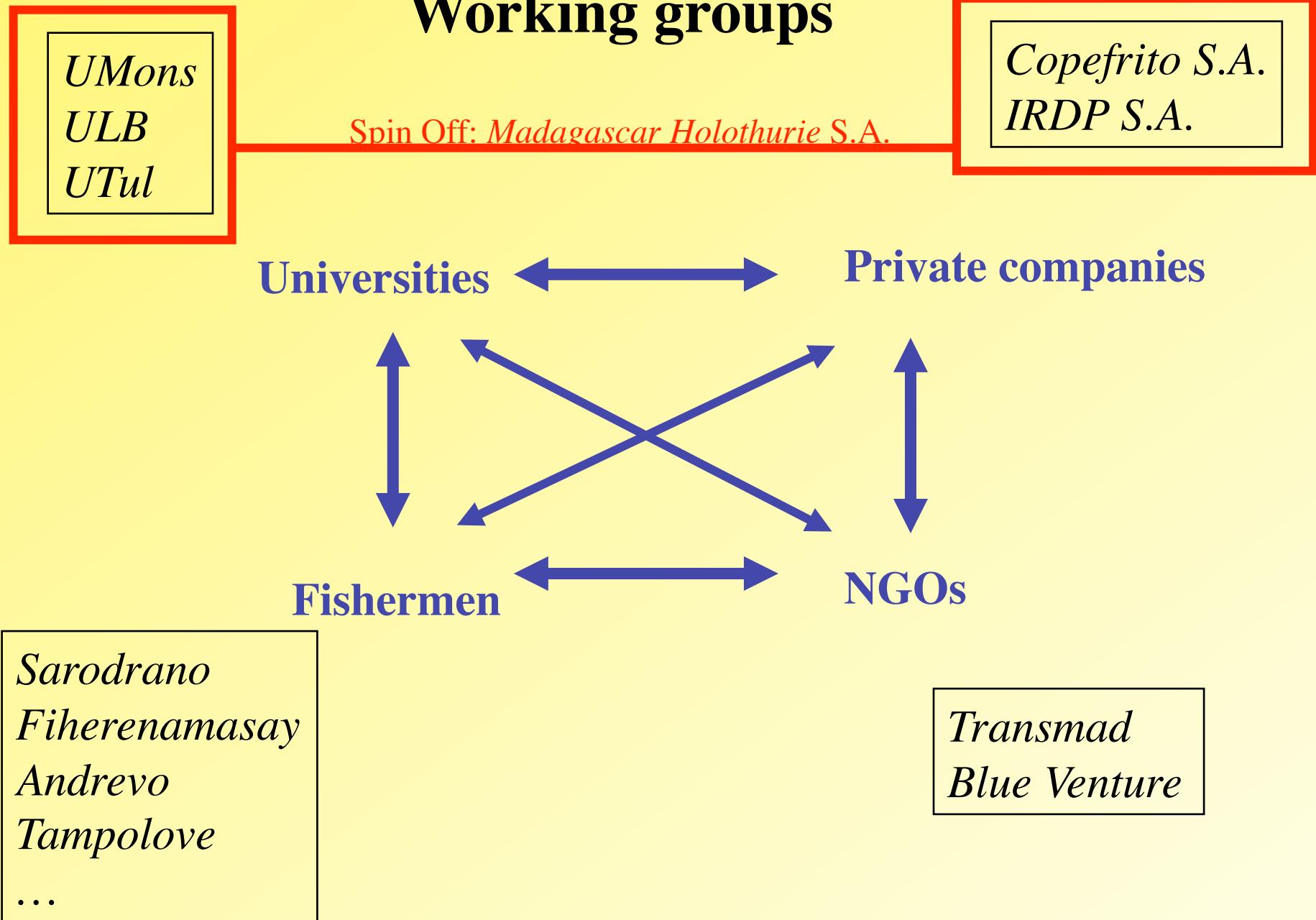
Aline LEONET  
Université de Mons  
Faculté des Sciences  
Biologie Marine

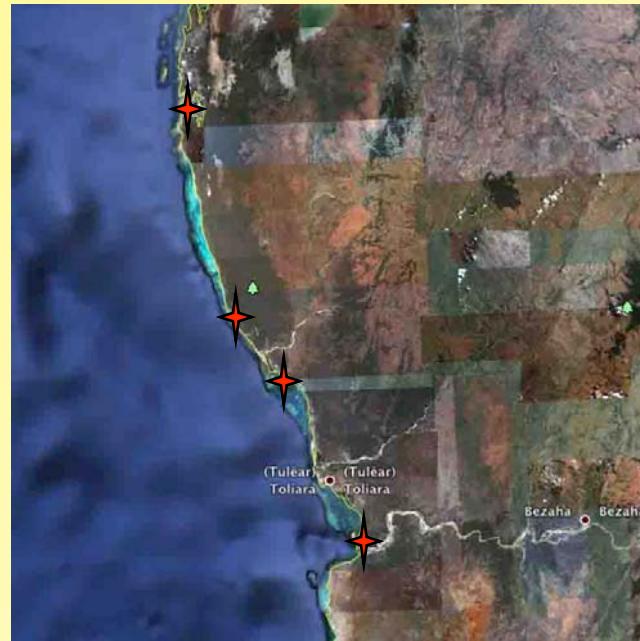
 Faculté  
des Sciences

Sous la direction de  
Monsieur le professeur  
**Igor Eeckhaut**  
Université de Mons

Décembre 2009

# Working groups





Larval development  
(and early postmetamorphic development)



90 days



Pregrowing



60 days



Growing



8 months



Hatchery

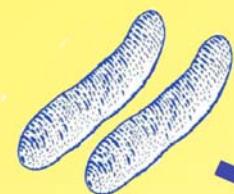


Ponds



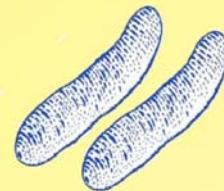
Fences

## *Madagascar Holothurie* Technology

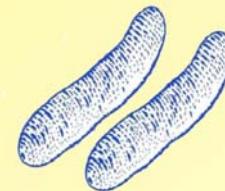


100,000 embryos  
1,000 1-cm-long juveniles  
800 6-cm -long juveniles  
400 adult *H. scabra*

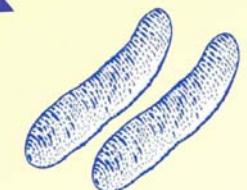
200 x



40,000 x



8,000,000 x



*Time scale: 6 years*

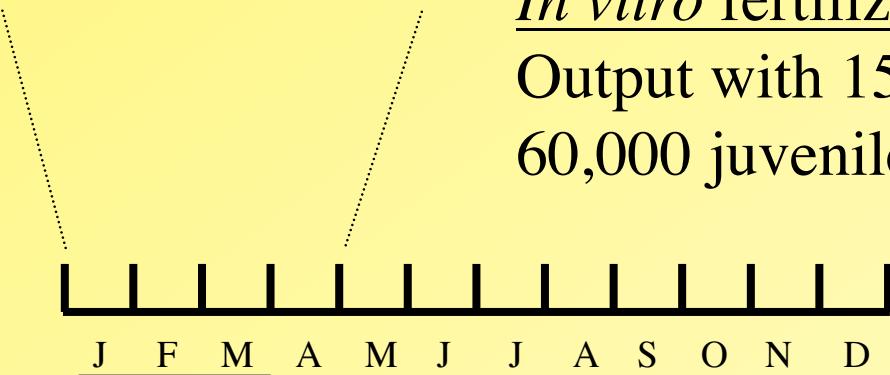


## Thermal shocks

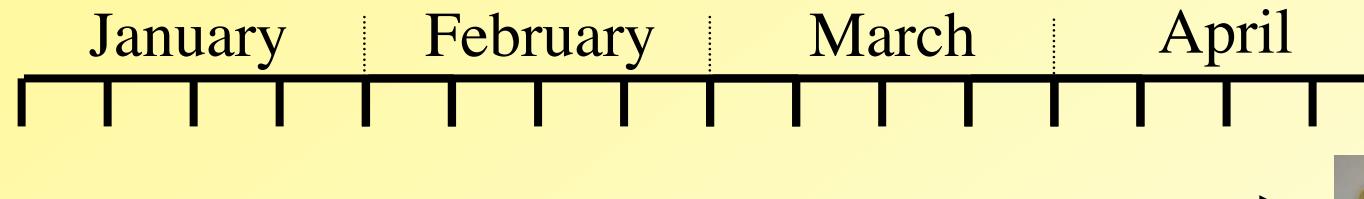
Output with 15 tanks/year:  $1 \times 15 \times 1,000$  juveniles  
 $15,000$  juveniles/year

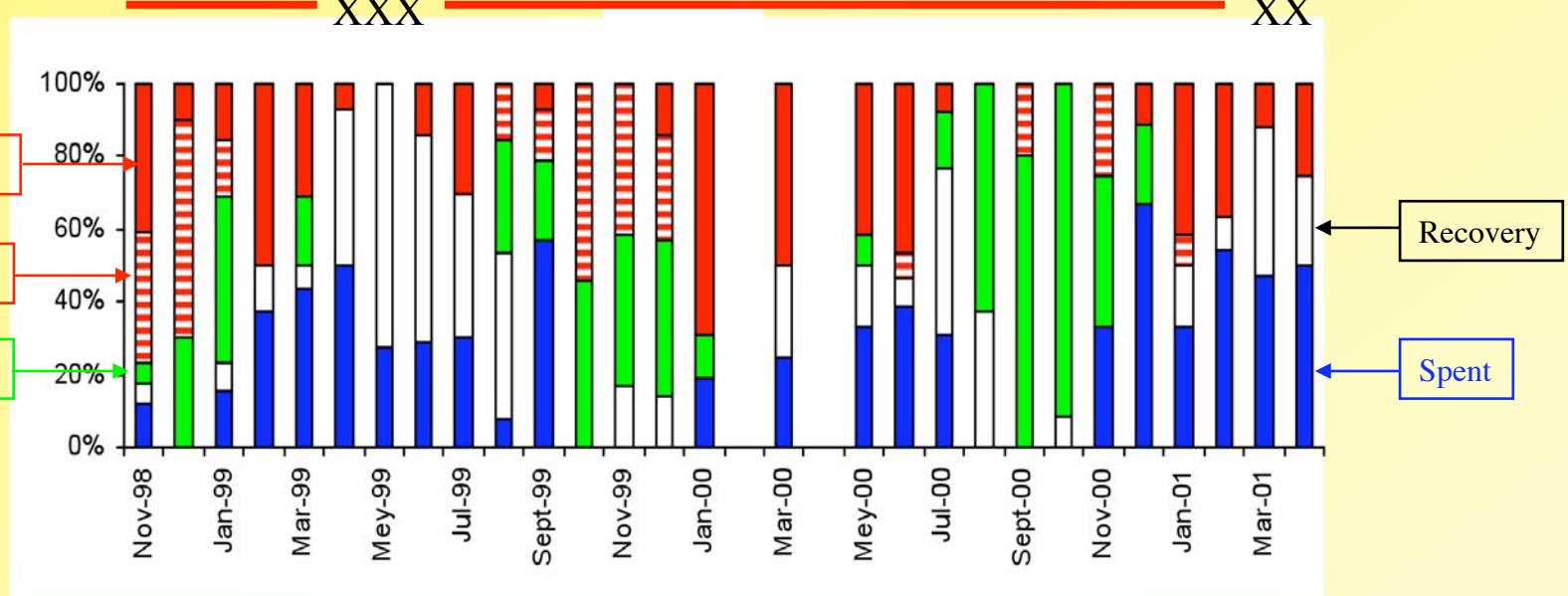
## *In vitro* fertilization method

Output with 15 tanks/year:  $4 \times 15 \times 1,000$  juveniles  
 $60,000$  juveniles/year



Thermal shocks

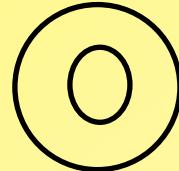




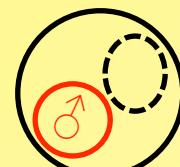
More than 30% of individuals have fertilizable oocytes in 23 months out of the 28-months period

## Prophase I

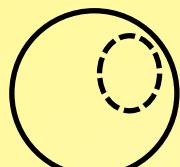
Universal blocking



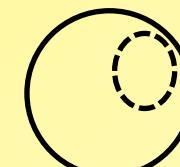
Fertilization



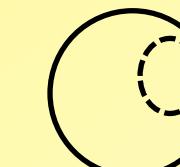
Ecdysteroid



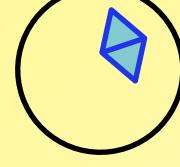
Progesteron



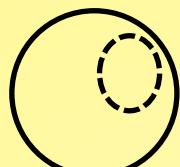
« Spawning »



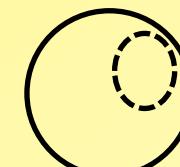
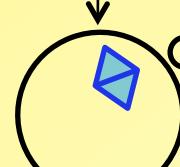
Prophase I



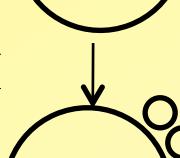
GVBD



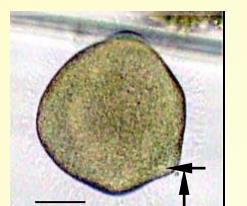
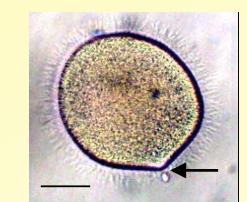
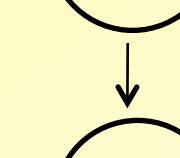
Métaphase I

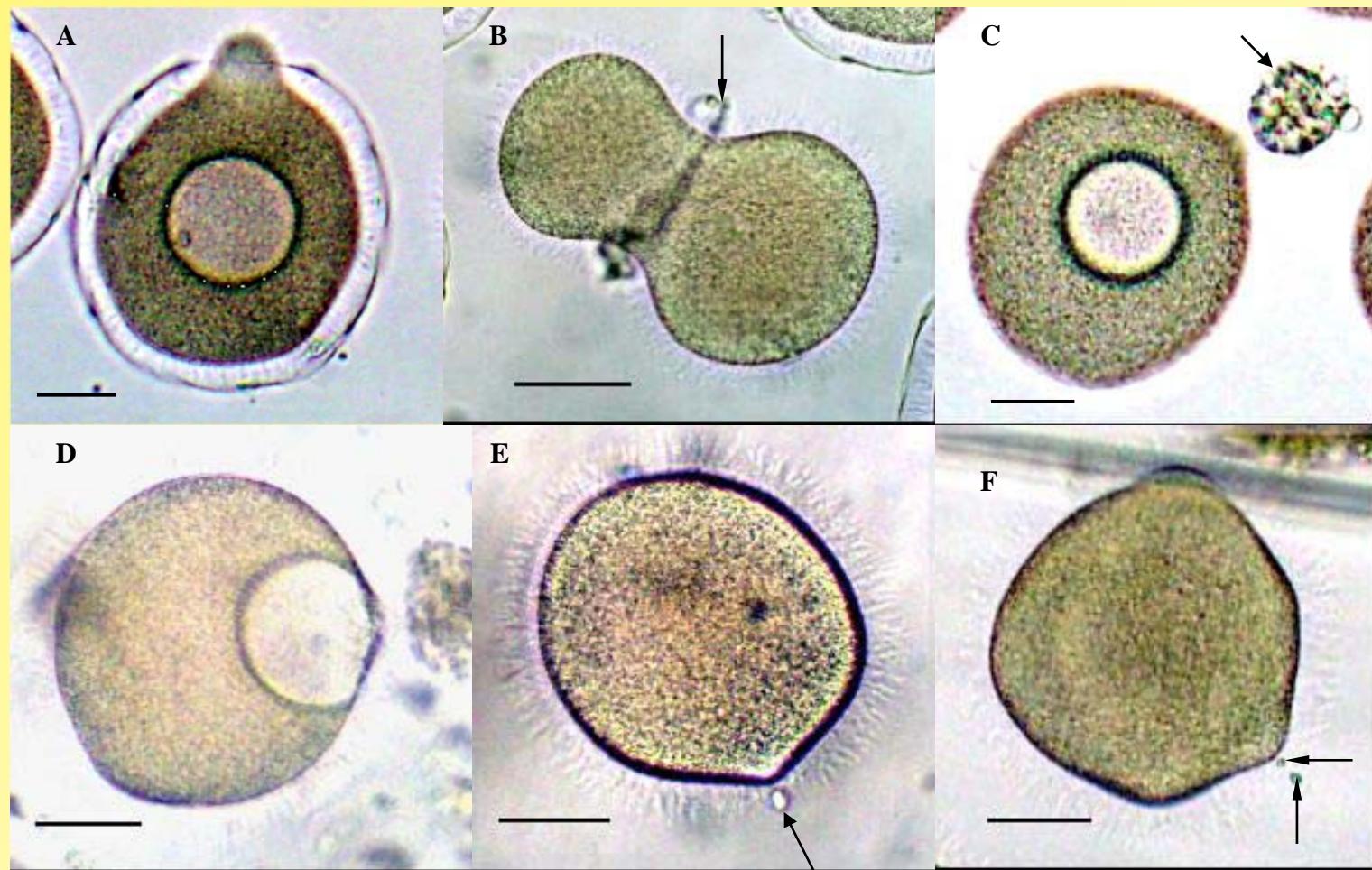


Métaphase II

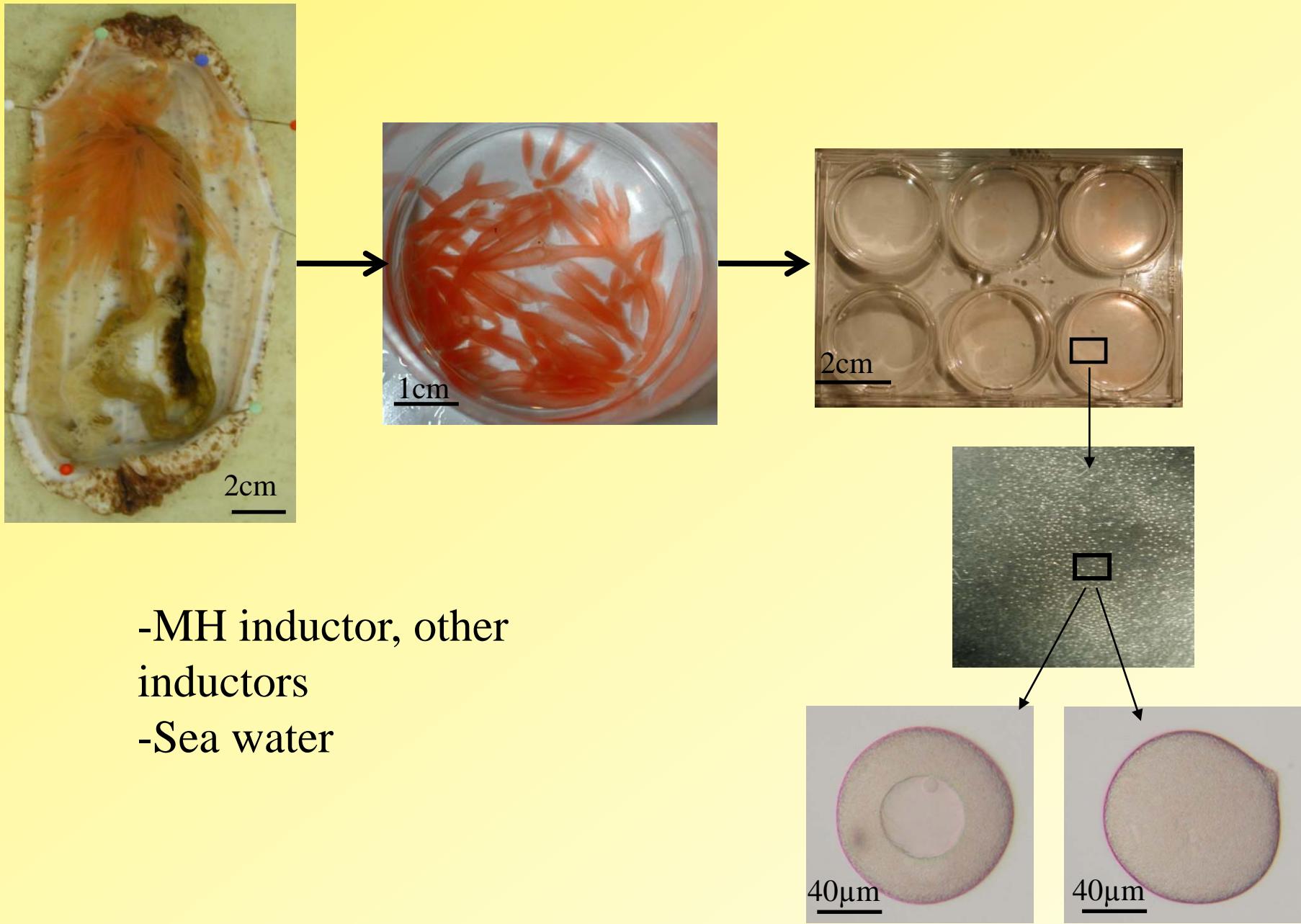


Ootide

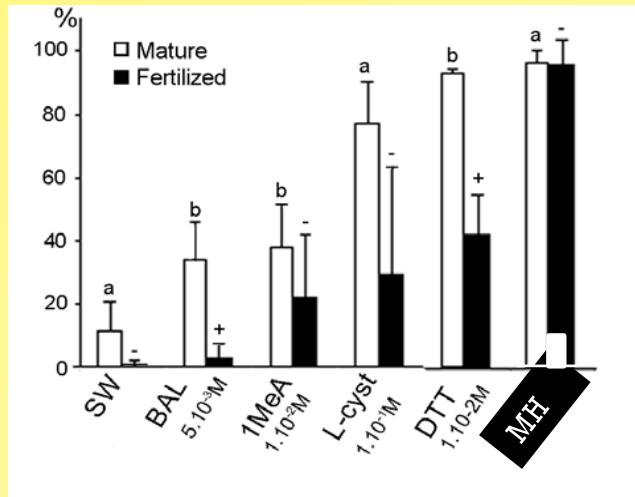




Scale bar=50 $\mu$ m



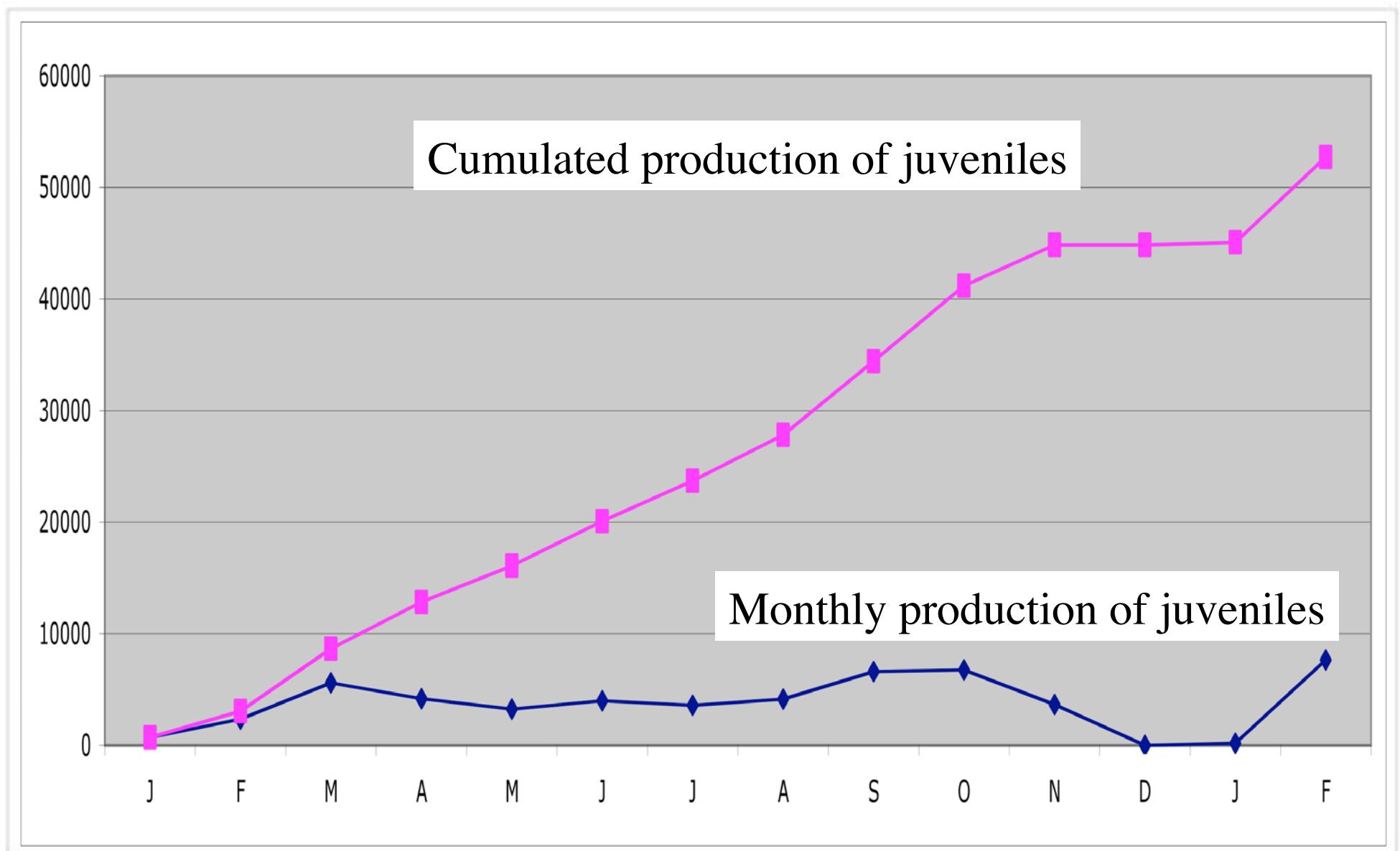
## Properties of MH inductor



- Induces more than 95% of maturation
- More than 90% of the oocytes are fertilizable
- Does not induce any larval malformation
- Is more efficient than the other known inducers

| <b>Species</b>                       | <b>%maturation<br/>in MH</b> | <b>%maturation in sea<br/>water</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Actinopyga echinates</i> (n=3)    | 81                           | 31                                  |
| <i>Bohadschia subrubra</i> (n=2)     | 99                           | 9                                   |
| <i>Bohadschia vitiensis</i> (n=4)    | 87.42                        | 9.65                                |
| <i>Holothuria cinerascens</i> (n=3)  | 92.6                         | 12.3                                |
| <i>Holothuria edulis</i> (n=2)       | 92                           | 11                                  |
| <i>Holothuria forskali</i> (n=2 )    | 94.5                         | 7                                   |
| <i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i> (n=1)   | 75                           | 10                                  |
| <i>Holothuria leucospilota</i> (n=4) | 70.25                        | 6                                   |
| <i>Holothuria maculosa</i> (n=6)     | 63.35                        | 9.2                                 |
| <i>Holothuria scabra</i> (n=4)       | 92.25                        | 15.75                               |
| <i>Holothuria tubulosa</i> (n=4)     | 82                           | 24.25                               |
| <i>Peasonothuria graeffei</i> (n=3)  | 92                           | 32                                  |
| <i>Thelenota ananas</i> (n=3)        | 79.33                        | 32.66                               |

# Production of juveniles in the hatchery of *Madagascar Holothurie S.A.*



| Methods                                | details  | Useless outside spawning period | Reliability | Risk of infestation | Risk of larval malformations | Tested species  | References  |  |
|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Spawning stimulation</b>            |  |                                 |             |                     |                              |   |   |  |
| Thermal shoks                          | Transfert into tanks of various t <sub>j</sub> | -                               | random      | +                   | -                            | <i>Astichopus japonicus</i><br><i>Australostichopus mollis</i>                                    | Hamel <i>et al.</i> , 2002<br>Morgan and AndrewDavid, 2009                      |  |
| PCF                                    | Injection into coelomic cavity                 | -                               | -           | +                   | -                            | <i>Bohadschia argus</i><br><i>B.marmorata</i><br><i>Holothuria leucospilota</i><br><i>H. atra</i> | Mercier and Hamel, 2002   |  |
| Cubifrine                              | Injection into coelomic cavity                 | -                               | +           | +                   | -                            | <i>A.japonicus</i>  | Fujiwara <i>et al.</i> , 2010<br>Kato <i>et al.</i> , 2009                      |  |
| <b>Gonad incubation</b>                |  |                                 |             |                     |                              |   |   |  |
| Aj-GSSL                                | Incubation with gonadal tubules                | -                               | +           | -                   | -                            | <i>A.japonicus</i>  | Katow <i>et al.</i> , 2009  |  |
| Cubifrine                              | Incubation with gonadal tubules                | -                               | +           | -                   | -                            | <i>A.japonicus</i>  | Kato <i>et al.</i> , 2009   |  |
| <b>Oocyte incubation</b>               |  |                                 |             |                     |                              |   |   |  |
| MH inductor                            | Incubation with oocytes                        | +                               | +           | -                   | -                            | 12 species  | LŽonet <i>et al.</i> , 2009   |  |
| DTT                                    | Incubation with oocytes                        | +                               | +           | -                   | +                            | <i>H. scabra</i><br><i>A. japonicus</i><br><i>H. leucospilota</i><br><i>H. pardalis</i>           | LŽonet <i>et al.</i> , 2009<br>Keraseva and Khotimchenko 1995<br>Maruyama, 1980 |  |
| Other inductors (BAL, L-cystine, 1MŽA) | Incubation with oocytes                        | -                               | -           | -                   | +                            | <i>H. scabra</i><br><i>H. leucospilota</i><br><i>H. pardalis</i>                                  | LŽonet <i>et al.</i> , 2009<br>Maruyama, 1980                                   |  |

Thanxxx for your attention!

