

#### D. Seasonal Pulse of Breeding and Photoperiodism

The graphs in Figures 1 and 3 indicate a strong pulse of energy in the spring and summer compared to the less lighted months. This is actually a greater difference in the aquatic community than on land because of the angle reflect of the trees and water reflection.

One is accustomed to recognizing big seasonal differences in energy flux with succession and blooms among the planktonic organisms in lakes and in the ocean. It is interesting to consider the fate of the energetic pulse in Silver Springs where no large successional changes have been observed even in the microscopic algae of the aufwuchs.

In Figures 4 and 5 are shown annual pictures of breeding in the apple snail *Pomacea* which lays its eggs above the water line and in *Palmonetes* which carries its eggs. From these graphs it may be concluded that in these species breeding occurs throughout the year in this constant temperature environment but at different rates that are likely to be photoperiodically controlled. Thus these species seem adapted to the energetic pulse of the whole community. As Forbes 100 years ago described, the survival of any particular community complex requires the components to eat neither too much or too little. As mentioned in the report on fishery shells below there is some evidence that similar round the year breeding occurs in the fishes with a large energetic pulse.

Fig. 4 Annual  
Reproduction of  
Pomacea

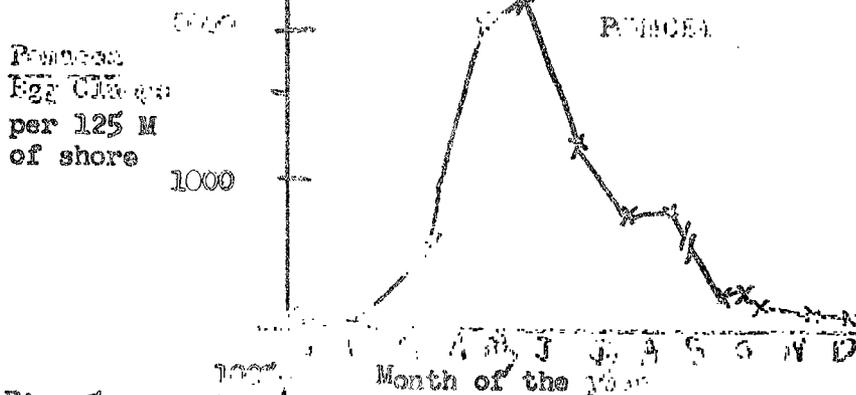


Fig. 5 Annual  
Reproduction of  
Palmonetes

Percent of  
the females  
over 21 mm  
with eggs

