

EARLY LIFE-HISTORY STAGES AND REPRODUCTION IN  
OMMASTREPHID SQUIDS FROM HAWAIIAN WATERS

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## ABSTRACT

Rhynchoteuthion larvae of three species of ommastrephid squids from Hawaiian waters were identified, and aspects of their ecology examined. Important taxonomic characters for field identification include the number and location of photophores, length of the rousel (fused tentacles), size at which the rousel completely divides and the relative sizes of the suckers on the rousel tip. Other taxonomic characters include sucker structure and chromatophore patterns. Variations between species were found in both temporal and vertical distributions.

Although females of most cephalopod species are generally thought produce one batch of offspring in their lifetime, evidence based on the condition of female reproductive structures indirectly suggests that the oceanic ommastrephid Sthenoteuthis oulaniensis has an extended spawning period that involves multiple spawning of newly-matured eggs in each spawning.