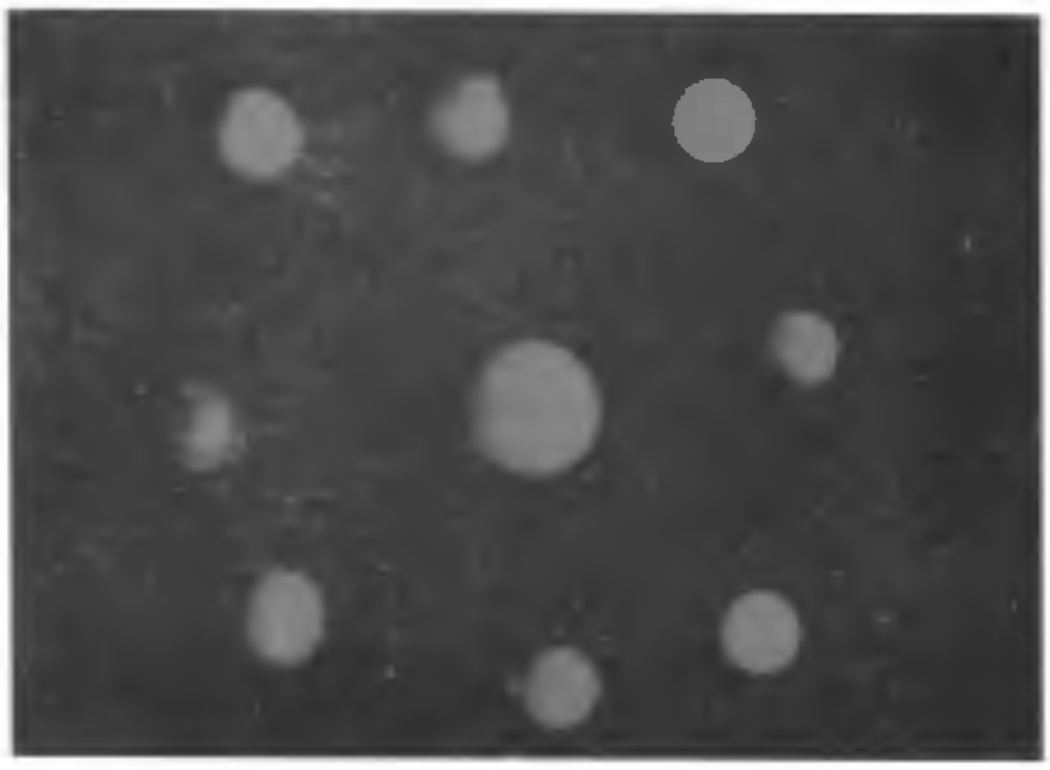

Figure 3. Culture pearls in freshwater mussels, Circled pearl: ceramic bead as nucleus.

nacre layer also formed over ceramic bead (figure 3, circled pearl) indicating the future avenues.

Thanks are due to the Director, CMFRI and Dr K. Alagarswamy and his colleagues at Tuticorin Centre of CMFRI for readily agreeing to demonstrate pearl oyster surgery. Thanks are also due to Dr G. R. M. Rao for help and to Shri H. K. Muduli for field assistance.

17 June 1988

1. Sherai, S., In: *The story of pearls*, Japan Publication Inc., Tokyo, 1970.
2. Ward, F., *Nat. Geogr.*, 1985, **168**, 193.
3. Alagarswamy, K., In: *Pearl culture*, CMFRI, Cochin, 1987, **39**, 98.
4. Janaki Ram, K., In: *International Training Programme on Composite Carp Culture under FAO/UNDP/Net Work of Aquaculture Centres in Asia*, Bhubaneswar, 1986, p. 161 (mimeo).
5. Khan, I. R., Patel, M. I. and Nariya, S. N., In: *National Seminar on Shell Fish Resources and Farming*, Tuticorin, 19–21 January, 1987, Abstract No. 70.
6. Subba Rao, N. V. and Dey, A., In: *National Seminar on Freshwater Aquaculture in India*, Nagarjuna Nagar, 27–30 December, 1987, Abstract No. 5.2.
7. Alagarswamy, K. and Dharmaraj, S., In: *Manual on Pearl Culture Techniques*, CMFRI, Special Publication, Cochin, 1984, p. 20.

ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BIOLOGICAL OXIDATION SYSTEMS

An international symposium, organized by the College of Agriculture and Environmental Resources Research Institute, Penn State University, USA, and the Department of Organic Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, will be held at the Indian Institute of Science from 23 to 26 October 1989. The symposium will focus on the molecular mechanisms by which oxygen and its reduction products react in biological systems. The survival of aerobic organisms depends on their ability to harness the beneficial aspects of O_2 reactivity and minimize the deleterious effects caused by reactions of O_2 and its reduction products. It is believed that a more detailed understanding of the reactions could lead to ways of preventing or correcting aberrant metabolic reactions and to more effective use of the enzymes of biological oxidation systems or synthetic analogues in commercial applications. The symposium will discuss the chemistry, enzymology and molecular biology of these reactions. There will be a keynote address by Prof. Bengt Samuelsson (Nobel Laureate), plenary lectures by leading scientists, lectures by other invited speakers, and contributed papers.

For more information, contact Prof. K. M. Madhyastha, Chairman, Organizing Committee, Department of Organic Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012, India.

Edited and published by Prof. S. Ramaseshan, Current Science Association, Bangalore 560 080.
Typeset and printed at Book-Makers (I) Pvt. Ltd., Mysore 570 023