

The appearance, shape, size, structure and pigmentation of the regenerated eyestalk exactly resembled those of the unablated one. This is an interesting observation, as no report is available on this aspect in penaeid prawns. This may also have important practical application in captive broodstock development as concerted efforts are being made all over the world, to develop techniques for production of selective and superior quality broodstock of penaeid prawns under captivity (see Browdy<sup>12</sup>).

Earlier studies on regeneration of crustacean appendages and eyestalk did not yield encouraging results, although the regeneration triggered precocious moulting<sup>13,14</sup>, but later studies indicated the possibility of regeneration of some appendages<sup>15-18</sup>. Kao and Chang<sup>19</sup> were able to regenerate the walking legs of the crabs on transplanting tissues of the limbs in the empty sockets of the same crabs. The only report available, on the possibility of eyestalk regeneration in crustacea, that too based on circumstantial evidence, is by Lyla and Khan<sup>20</sup> who have observed different sizes of eyestalk in natural population of the hermit crab *Clibanarius longitarsus* and remarked that the finding has taxonomical implication. However, there are some reports available on regeneration of eyes in some species of molluscs<sup>21,22</sup>.

The present observation becomes more important as it has significant implications on the gonad maturation and captive breeding of penaeid prawns, which are being considered as thrust areas of research in prawn aquaculture<sup>12</sup>. However, it is important to clearly understand the mechanism of regeneration and functional aspects of the regenerated eyestalk. We propose that regeneration of the ablated eyestalk may also be activating GIH production, slowly in the initial stages and actively later, which may be responsible for reducing fecundity in successive spawns and completely stopping maturation of gonad after a certain period.

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## Erratum

### The programme of cell death in plants and animals – A comparison

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The authors inform that: "In the above article a small error has crept in on page 1172. Apaf-1 is actually a cytosolic factor and not a factor released from mitochondria as stated in the text. The readers should ignore this while reading".