

Decapsulating Brine Shrimp Eggs

Though I don't have much experience in this, I have had success in decapsulating brine shrimp eggs and took some pictures the other day in hopes pictures would make it easier to explain.

For years I'd just added the whole brine shrimp eggs into a container and bubbled them in saltwater until they hatched and dealt with having to sort out the baby brine shrimp and the egg shells. It's very difficult to separate the babies without getting any shells when you're feeding baby fish.



Gather the necessary equipment to tackle the task. In this example I'm using the amount necessary to fill my two hatching containers. You certainly can use different amounts if you want more or less eggs decapsulated; just keep the amounts of water and bleach the same and use enough water to keep them covered, plus some.

1) You need a small container to do the mixing in. A round container is my preference for getting all the eggs decapsulated.

- 2) A measuring cup. I'm using a 1/3 Cup.
- 3) A measuring spoon. I'm using a 1/2 Tablespoon.
- 4) 1/3 Cup of Water. Tap water is just fine.
- 5) 1/3 Cup of household bleach.
- 6) A brine shrimp net.
- 7) Airline tubing connected to an air pump.
- 8) Brine Shrimp Eggs.

PROTOCOL



- 1) Put the 1/3 cup of water into the mixing container.
- 2) Add the 1/2 Tablespoon Brine Shrimp Eggs into the mixing container.
- 3) Use the airline tubing to aerate the eggs for about an hour and stir them up several times during the hour.



1) After an hour, most of the brine shrimp eggs are fully soaked and will sink to the bottom.

- 1) Add the 1/3 cup of household bleach to the mixing bowl.
- 2) It will get a slight foam on the top
- 3) I stir almost constantly with the airline tubing at this point.
- 4) It takes 5 or 6 minutes for the bleach to dissolve the eggshells.
- 5) The eggs will change in color from brown to orange.



1) Pour all the decapsulated eggs into the brine shrimp net and rinse out the mixing bowl with water (again, tap water is fine) and pour through the brine shrimp net until you have all the eggs out.



1) Rinse the eggs under running water for at least 1 minute to remove all of the bleach.



1) This is how they should look afterwards.



1) Place an appropriate amount of the decapsulated eggs into your hatching container and aerate at a slow boil until the babies hatch.

2) Once the babies have hatched, slow the aeration down to keep the babies alive for several days.

I start a new batch of babies every other day and decapsulate eggs every other day. I find doing it fun! It is my understanding that you can decapsulate more than needed at one time and keep the extras for some time in the refrigerator for a short time in a very, very, salty brine solution.

Raising the babies to maturity is also a lot of fun and all your fish will thank you for it.

After my daily feedings of the baby brine shrimp to my tanks, I take all those that are left over and put them in a 10 gallon tank with good aeration. In two to four weeks you'll have lots of live feed for your fish. I find them extremely fascinating to watch. They are so graceful. It's hard not getting attached to them.

I hatch and raise them in a salinity of 1.018ish. I feed them whatever type of phytoplankton I have around, just keeping the water a slight green color.

Give it a try. It's easier than you thought!