

Fishy Fun Sheet: Create Your Own - Sea Monkey Hatchery

Region

North Coast, Gascoyne Coast, West Coast, South Coast, Indian Ocean Territories

Summary

Create your own sea monkey hatchery.

Create your own Sea Monkey hatchery



Sea monkeys (Artemia) or Brine Shrimp as they are commonly known, are tiny crustaceans, meaning they are related to marine animals such as barnacles, lobsters, shrimps and crabs. Sea monkeys are used as a food source around the world in aquaculture (fish farming).

Presented here is one method of setting up a system and feeding Artemia.

Setting Up

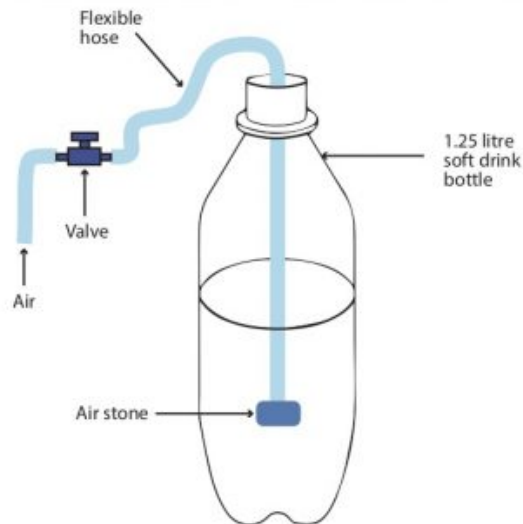
Artemia cysts can be bought from most aquarium suppliers. Many methods can be used to set up a hatchery. A quick Google of "brine shrimp hatchery" will reveal many more, which may be better suited to your equipment availability.

You will need the following equipment:

- **1.25 Litre Cool Drink Bottle** – Washed out well and must have NO soap residue.
- **Rock salt** – which can be purchased here as pool salt (about \$6 a 25Kg bag).
- **Small air pump** – Set Up with tubing, air stone and valve.
- **Brine Shrimp Net** – Old stocking and a coat hanger bent to shape work well.
- **Water** – dechlorinated by leaving to sit for 24-48 hours.
- **Bakers yeast** – dry is OK but fresh works well from most bakers.
- **Aquarium grade silicon** – available from good aquarium shops and some hardware stores.



Make your own Brine Shrimp Hatchery



Instructions

- Dissolve salt in dechlorinated water. Work on one to two heaped tablespoons (10-20grams) per litre. Allow this to dissolve well. If you have a hydrometer you could measure this as it should have a specific density of 1.0030 or salinity at 5 ppt (although opinions on this number differ).
- The temperature works best at about 25°C, and in a lit (but not continuously) area.
- Set up the cool drink bottles as shown over the page.
- Seal the air tubing in to the drink bottle lid with clear aquarium grade silicon.
- Place an airstone on the inside of the drink bottle.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ fill drink bottle with your salt water. Turn on air pump and adjust so that it is providing a good amount of circulation for the water.
- Place in $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon full or less if you are rationing, but certainly no more of brine shrimp cysts/eggs (or drops if they are in liquid form) into the water.

Create your own sea monkey hatchery.

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