Mesocrictonema xenoplax Life cycle

1. Adult females deposit single eggs every two to four days.

2. First molt occurs within the egg, taking a first stage juvenile (J1) to a second stage juvenile (J2).

3. Second stage juveniles (J2) hatch from the egg in 11-15 days.

4. Second stage juveniles (J2) molt to third stage juveniles (J3) in three to five days.

5. Third stage juveniles (J3) molt to fourth stage juveniles (J4) in four to seven days, then become adults five to six days later.

6. Adult females begin to lay eggs in two to three days. Males rarely observed.