BIODETERIORATION IN PORTO NOVO COASTAL AREA: SEASONAL OCCURRENCE, GROWTH RATE AND LONGEVITY OF FOULING AND BORING ORGANISMS ON THE DEAD SHELLS OF *CHICOREUS RAMOSUS*

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ABSTRACT

Shells of the muricid snail *Chicoreus ramosus* were suspended at 23 m depth from one to twelve months. The relative abundance of fouling organisms did not change with time. Only the biomass of foulers increased with time. Seasonal peaks in occurrence of groups of foulers were observed. The attached forms commonly encountered were *Sargatia* sp., *Membranipora tuberculata, Polydora* sp., *Hydroides* sp., *Ba/anus reticu- latus, Anomia* sp., *Modiolus undulatus* and ascidians. Free living organisms commonly associated with the shells were *Perineries* sp., *Corophium* spp., *Sphaeroma* spp., *Clibanarius* sp., *Aplysia* sp., and octopus. Fouling was intense during the months of January and February, 1993.