GASTROPOD SHELLS USED BY HERMIT CRABS ON BUNAKEN ISLAND, SU LAWESI, INDONESIA

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The hermit crabs, Co. nau11a ruR0I11s Edwards 19X37, were found abundantly on the dry upper part of the shore. The gastropod shells collected consisted of 26 genera and 19 were used by the crabs. The selectivity index (E) was positive for four gastropod shells: Nassarius, Ccrit1111111 Turho, and Af orula (E = 0.54, 0.43, 0.27 respectively). Frequency of occurrence of gastropod shells collected by hermit crab excluding the empty ones was Nassarius > Ccrtithivn > lborula > He a1111a > Liorina > Turho > Drupe > Nerita Carapace width was strongly correlated with the width of gastropod shell aperture (r = 0.8889), and also with animal and shell weight (r = 0.7353). Hermit crabs are able to carry a shell more than ten times of their own weight. Adults were entirely found in Turho shells while juveniles occupied velancl a and Vassarius shells. Medium sized crabs inhabited Morua, Drupela, Irotina, Nerita, and Ccrit1111111 shells.