P R E DATI ON ON J U V EN I L E *CH ICO REUS RAMOSUS* (L., 1758): EFFECTS OF BO D Y SI Z E A N D H A B I TAT COM PLEX ITY

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ABSTR ACT

Prcdat10n on *Chicorc11.1 1w1w1111* \,as 111\·csllgatcd d u nng 9 mont h, by tetheri ng JO *C. ramosus* with monofi¡ament I i nc *in situ*. The snail, wc1-c recordcd weekl y. and dead i nd i \ i d uals replaced. Crabs were the main preda tors, fish ,iccaslllna l pn:cLttors. Predat ion by carn1 vorot1s gast ropods was i mpossi bl e to eval ua te beca usc no marks were lc lt 011 t hc empt y shells. Predation freq ucnc \ 1, a, h1 ghc'r w i th decreasi ng *i11 s1111* sed i ment dept h because burying 1, the' 111am de l'cnec. Si?c depcndcn l nwrta l i t> h y prcd,1 t : on was fu rther i m··est1ga ted by usi ng enc losures. Preda- t i on on *C 1·c11nosus* decreased sigrn fica nt l y w hen t h e\ a t tamc'd a total lengt h of more than 4.5 cm.