MANGROVE WOOD BORED BY MOLLUSCS, SOUTHEASTERN COAST OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Seven wood-boring species were identified in the Pichavaram mangrove forest, southeastern coast of India, *viz.*, 5 teredinids: *Bankia campanellata* Moll & Roch, *Bankia carinata* (Gray), *Dicyathifer manni* (Wright), *Lyrodus pedicellatus* (Quatrefages), *Teredo furcifera* von Martens, and 2 pholads: *Martesia striata* (L.) (predominant) and *Martesia nairi* Turner & Santhakumaran. Among the 12 species of mangrove trees, *Rhizophora lamarckii* Lamk., *Sonneratia apetala* B. Ham. and *Xylocarpus granatum* Koen., were highly affected by the borers. Dead mangrove stumps showed higher infestation of wood-borers than the live ones. The occurrence of wood-borers was high during July and low in December.