

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF *CHICOREUS CAPUCINUS*
(LAMARCK, 1822) (PROSOBRANCHIA: MURICIDAE) IN THE MANGROVE
AT AO NAM BOR, PHUKET, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

Chicoreus capucinus was studied, using stratified random sampling technique, in addition to potential prey species, the topographic level of the study area, and the characteristics of the tide. A simple method for determining the mean water velocity during tidal inundation was developed. *C. capucinus* was distributed throughout the entire study area, even in areas emersed for more than 85 % of the time. The species was usually found on the prop roots of the mangrove trees. The vertical distribution was limited by tidal factors. A clear zonation of potential prey existed, with high abundances in the seaward regions, and low densities in the middle and landward parts. *C. capucinus* principally preyed on oysters, *Saccostrea cucullata* (Born, 1778) (emend. Born 1780), but was not limited by the distribution of this species. The abundance depended on a combination of food availability and tidal factors. In the more landward regions *C. capucinus* feed on *Teredo* sp.