

EFFECT OF LIGHT ON THE ZOOXANTHELLAE NUMBERS AND CHLOROPHYLL LEVEL IN *TRIDACNA SQUAMOSA*

Zulfigar Bin Yasin & Aileen Tan Shau-Hwai

*Muka Head Marine Research Station, Centre For Marine and Coastal Studies,
Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Penang, Malaysia*

ABSTRACT

This study investigated the effect of different light intensities on the zooxanthellae numbers and chlorophyll *a* level in *Tridacna squamosa*. The number of zooxanthellae and chlorophyll *a* level were calculated from 10 animals at each study location with different light intensities. The density of zooxanthellae increased when the exposure to sunlight decreased. The chlorophyll *a* level also increased with low levels of light intensity. Aspects concerning the physiology of zooxanthellae and chlorophyll, which have relevance to giant clams, are reviewed.