

DENSITY, ABUNDANCE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF JUVENILE MOLLUSCS
WITH EMPHASIS ON *TROCHUS*, KEI BESAR ISLAND, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

A study of the distribution and abundance of the juvenile top shell, *Trochus niloticus* occurring on intertidal flats off the East Coast of Kei Besar Island, Indonesia, was performed. An analysis of two transects collected at low and high tides showed an occurrence of 6 % at low tide and 14 % at high tide of all gastropods sampled. The average density of juvenile *Trochus* was 0.55 ind. m⁻² at one site while juvenile *Trochus* were absent at another site. Adult *Trochus* were found at both sites. A total of 37 species of juvenile molluscs (33 gastropod species and 4 bivalve species) co-occurred with juvenile *Trochus*. Factors regulating the distribution and abundance of *T. niloticus* are discussed.