

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF GIANT CLAMS IN THE ADANG-RAWI ISLAND GROUP, THE ANDAMAN SEA, THAILAND

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Eleven stations among the coral reefs of Adang, Bitsi, Hin-ngam, Lipe and Ta Lang islands were selected for the studies on size frequency, abundance and distribution of giant clams. Three species of giant clam were found, namely *Tridacna crocea*, *T. maxima* and *T. squamosa*. Giant clams were most abundant on the east side of Adang Island. *T. crocea* and *T. maxima* were common in all stations and both species were more abundant on the reef flat site than on the reef slope sites. The species *T. squamosa* was found at some stations and there was no difference in density between the zones on reef. The ranges of shell length measured in *T. crocea* and *T. maxima* were 0.7-15.0 cm and 1.0-34.0 cm respectively. Both species were found from the littoral zone to 10 m depth. For the *T. maxima* population, the larger ~~clams~~ ^{clams} were more common on the reef slope sites compared to the reef flat sites. The shell length of *T. squamosa* varied from 12.0 to 38.0 cm. The smaller clams were always found in shallow water, while the larger clams were found in deeper water.