SEASONAL GROWTH IN TWO SPECIES OF *THAIS* (MOLLUSCA, GASTROPODA, MURICIDAE) ON THE EAST COAST OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA - A PRELIMINARY STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Growth in *Thais clavigera* (Kuster) and *T. jubilaea* Tan & Sigurdsson (Mollusca, Gastropoda, Muricidae) was studied at a rocky shore near Kuantan, peninsular Malaysia by monitoring the shell heights of marked individuals. Based on measurements recorded at monthly or bimonthly intervals for a period of 16 months, the two species showed nearly identical seasonal growth patterns. Maximum shell growth in both species occurred during the Northeast Monsoon (November to March), while there was little or no increase in shell height during the other months of the year. Production of egg capsules appeared to predominate during the "no-growth" period. These preliminary results do not support the paradigm that animals in the tropics grow and reproduce continuously throughout the year. Competition for energy resources utilized during growth and egg capsule production, as well as physical constraints imposed by the monsoons, may be possible factors responsible for the observed patterns.