

GIANT CLAMS IN THE ANDAMAN SEA, THAILAND. PART 1: DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE AT RAWI, BUTANG AND KATA ISLANDS

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ABSTRACT

Three species of giant clam, *Tridacna squamosa*, *T. maxima* and *T. crocea*, were encountered east of Rawi Island. The species *T. crocea* and *T. maxima* were common at all stations but only few *T. squamosa* were encountered. The densities of *T. maxima* and *T. crocea* were higher on the reef flat than on the reef slope. Both species were found from the littoral zone to a depth of 7 m. *T. crocea* was smaller on the reef flat than the reef slope, while *T. maxima* differed only slightly (non-significant) in the same habitats. Shell lengths ranged from 1 to 15 cm in *T. crocea*, from 1 to 34 cm in *T. maxima* and from 9 to 40 cm in *T. squamosa*.