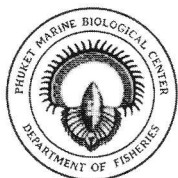


Population characteristics and feeding of the snail *Chicoreus capucinus* at Ang-Sila, Chonburi Province, Thailand

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The muricid snail *Chicoreus capucinus* is one of the few mollusc species, which characteristically occurs only in mangroves. However, it has been found living on sandflats adjacent to mangroves at Kungkraeban Bay and Ang-Sila, Thailand. The present paper examines characteristics of the species at Ang-Sila. *Chicoreus capucinus* occupies a variety of habitats at Ang-Sila, but is most abundant and has a high density (1.7 m^{-2}) on an abandoned concrete wall. However, very few animals (about 1% of individuals) on the wall were feeding. Density (0.6 m^{-2}) is lower in the mangroves (*Avicennia alba*), but the total number of individuals in mangroves is high because of the large area occupied by the tree zone. About 9% of the animals in the mangroves were feeding, primarily on the potamidid *Cerithidea* sp. and bivalves. Density of *C. capucinus* on the sandflat was low, about 0.01 m^{-2} , but 45% of the animals were feeding, entirely on *Cerithidea* sp. Snail predation selectively targets large *Cerithidea* sp., but there is no relationship between predator size and prey size. The snails adhere to the concrete wall, and to a lesser extent isolated small rocks, and move onto the sandflat or into the mangroves to feed. Data presented here suggest *C. capucinus* play a substantial role in structuring the molluscan assemblage on the sandflats and in the mangroves of the area.

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