

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF MACROFAUNA FROM A MANGROVE FOREST AND ADJACENT BIOTOPES AT SURIN ISLAND, WESTERN PENINSULAR THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

The distribution of the macrofauna of a mangrove forest and adjacent sand and mud flats was investigated at Koh Surin Nua, an island of the Surin Island Group in the Andaman Sea off the west coast of Peninsular Thailand and just south of the Burmese border. Fifty one species of macrofauna were found, thirty eight of which occurred within the mangrove biotope. The mangrove macrofauna was dominated by polychaetes, crustaceans and molluscs. Coelenterates, sipunculid worms, an insect and fishes were, however, also recorded. Only four of the mangrove dwelling species were found in either the sand or mud flat biotopes, the remaining species occurring exclusively within the mangrove forest. The findings, thus, emphasise the characteristic nature of the mangrove macrofauna at this locality. In composition the mangrove macrofauna was similar to that described for other localities in the Indo-West Pacific region.

Comparisons are made between the macrofauna found at Koh Surin Nua with those found in similar biotopes on Phuket Island, near to, and almost in contact with, the coast of west Peninsular Thailand where previous studies have been made. At least six forms found at Koh Surin Nua during the present investigation are new records for the fauna of Thailand.