

OBSERVATIONS ON FIDDLER CRABS (OCYPODIDAE : GENUS *UCA*) ON SURIN ISLAND, WESTERN PENINSULAR THAILAND, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO *UCA TETRAGONON* (HERBST)

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ABSTRACT

The fiddler crab populations of a mangrove forest and adjacent sand and mud flats were investigated at Koh Surin, a group of islands in the Andaman Sea off the west coast of Peninsular Thailand and just south of the Burmese border. The distribution, density and sympatry of the four species of fiddler crabs, *Uca dussumieri dussumieri*, *U. lactea annulipes*, *U. tetragonon* and *U. vocans vocans*, found within the study area are discussed and these factors are examined in relation to the nature of the substrate in the mangrove, sand and mud flat biotopes.

A detailed study was made of a dense sand flat dwelling colony of *U. tetragonon* in order to (1) examine the distribution of the species relative to the nature of the substrate, (2) population structure, and (3) relative growth rates.

The presence of *U.d. dussumieri* at Koh Surin, discovered during the present study, represents a major extension to the distributional range of the subspecies. It is also the first recorded instance of this subspecies occurring in Thailand.