

# NOTES ON THE ECOLOGY OF FIDDLER CRAB POPULATIONS (OCYPODIDAE : GENUS *UCA*) ON PHUKET, SURIN NUA AND YAO YAI ISLANDS, WESTERN PENINSULAR THAILAND

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## ABSTRACT

Seven species of fiddler crabs were collected and observed at various intertidal habitats on islands adjacent to, and off, the west coast of peninsular Thailand. Substrate characteristics of grain size and organic content, the presence or absence of mangrove vegetation, the relative salinity and the degree of tidal wetting are shown to be the main factors affecting the distribution, zonation, density and sympatry of the species studied. Some previously unrecorded sympatric associations of fiddler crab species are described.