ABUNDANCE OF SOME SELECTED DETRITUS IN A THAI MANGAL

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CONTENTS

Abstract .................................................................................................................. 1
I. Introduction ......................................................................................................... 1
II. Materials and Methods ..................................................................................... 4
III. Results ............................................................................................................. 5
IV. Discussion and Conclusions ........................................................................... 11
Acknowledgements ............................................................................................... 12
References ............................................................................................................ 12

ABSTRACT

Zooplankton samples were collected from a mangrove channel over a period of three months. Living and non-
living parts of each sample were separated microscopically. The relative abundances of three types of detritus (faecal
pellets, plant fragments, sand and mud aggregates) were measured. Filtration, weighing and calcination processes
were used successively to estimate the dry weight and organic content of each part of the samples. Results, related
to sampling station position, tidal levels and channel structure, illustrate that detritus constitutes at least 40% of the
samples. Samples collected deep inside the mangrove area were the richest in detritus (up to 95%). Faecal pellets
and mineral particles and aggregates were the most abundant at neap-tide while plant fragments dominated in the
channels at spring-tide. The importance of non-living particles is emphasized by a detrital organic matter content of
up to 35.7 mg/m³ of channel water.