DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF PENAEID POSTLARVAE IN MANGROVE AREAS ALONG THE EAST COAST OF PHUKET ISLAND, SOUTHERN THAILAND.

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CONTENTS

Abstract .................................................................................................................. 1
I. Introduction......................................................................................................... 2
II. Materials and Methods .................................................................................. 2
   (a) Study site .................................................................................................. 2
   (b) Collection of penaeid postlarvae .............................................................. 4
   (c) Preservation of collected material ......................................................... 4
   (d) Characters used in identification of postlarvae ....................................... 4

III. Results .......................................................................................................... 5
   (a) General observations on invertebrate larvae collected ....................... 5
   (b) Penaeid postlarvae collected ................................................................. 5
   (c) Species composition of penaeid postlarvae ........................................... 5
   (d) Distribution and abundance of other crustacean and fish larvae .......... 7
       (i) At seaward sites of the mangrove at Ao Sapum ............................... 7
       (ii) At seaward sites of the mangrove at Ko Yao Yai ......................... 10
       (iii) In the mangrove channel at Ko Yao Yai ....................................... 11
       (iv) In the mangrove channel at Ko Maprao .................................... 11
   (e) Distribution and abundance of penaeids .............................................. 13
       (i) At seaward sites of the mangrove at Ao Sapum ............................... 13
       (ii) At seaward sites of the mangrove at Ko Yao Yai ......................... 16
       (iii) In the mangrove channel at Ko Yao Yai ....................................... 18
       (iv) In the mangrove channel at Ko Maprao .................................... 18

IV. Discussion .................................................................................................... 18

V. Conclusions .................................................................................................... 21

Acknowledgements ............................................................................................ 22

References ........................................................................................................ 22

ABSTRACT

The distribution and abundance of penaeid postlarvae were studied at seaward sites of a mangrove forest and in a mangrove channel during 1979-80. Five species of commercially important shrimps, viz. Penaeus monodon, P. semisulcatus, P. merguiensis, P. indicus and P. japonicus were found in these areas. P. semisulcatus was the dominant species followed by P. merguiensis. The major occurrence of penaeid postlarvae was at seaward sites of the mangrove while lower number were found in the channel. The penaeid postlarvae were collected in maximum numbers in surface samples during the night.

Seasonal variations and abundance of postlarvae were observed. The maximum numbers were recorded during the period May to October, that is during the wet season of south-west monsoon.

Other invertebrate postlarvae encountered in the samples were also recorded and the distribution and abundance of some important groups are described in the present paper.