

VARIATION IN THE DOMINANCE AND POPULATION STRUCTURE OF INTERTIDAL CORALS AROUND KO PHUKET, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

The community structure of intertidal coral reefs around Ko Phuket, Thailand, has been shown to be governed primarily by exposure to wave action as a result of the reversing monsoon influence. Even at two neighbouring sites, exposed to similar monsoon influences, there are marked differences in the proportions of massive and branching corals inhabiting the reef flat. These differences may reflect various environmental parameters, such as differing sedimentation rates and/or exposure to tin smelter discharges at one of these sites. Furthermore the size-structure of *Goniastrea favulus* at these locations indicates that largest colonies are found where densities of this coral are high (30 per m²) and where the incidence of fusion between colonies is pronounced.