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COMMUNITY STRUCTURE AND BIOMASS OF SEAGRASS BEDS IN THE ANDAMAN SEA. I. MANGROVE-ASSOCIATED SEAGRASS BEDS.

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ABSTRACT

The ASEAN-Australia Marine Science Project "Living Coastal Resources" included studies on mangrove-associated seagrass beds at 10 stations. Two species of seagrasses were found at almost all transects: *Enhalus acoroides* (33.4% coverage) and *Halophila ovalis* (18.2% coverage). Five species occurred sparsely: *Thalassia hemprichii*, *Cymodocea rotundata*, *Halodule uninervis*, *Halodule pinifolia* and *Halophila beccarii*. The overall grass coverage was 63%. Total seagrass biomass ranged from 55-1941 g w.w m⁻² corresponding to 32-297 g d.w. m⁻². Leaf and root-rhizome biomasses of the 7 species were estimated; *Thalassia hemprichii* had the highest above-ground and below-ground biomass.