SPECIES COMPOSITION AND ABUNDANCE DISTRIBUTION OF ANOMURAN SAND CRABS, AND POPULATION BIOMONICS OF EMERITA EMERITUS (L.) ALONG THE INDIAN OCEAN COAST OF THAILAND (DECAPODA: HIPPIDAE)

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CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Materials and methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Survey area and stations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Physical and Chemical parameters</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Treatment of the specimen in the laboratory</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Morphological relationships</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Results</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Species composition</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Distribution and fishing ground</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Tidal rhythmic activity and vertical distribution</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Size frequency distribution</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Sex ratio</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) Fecundity</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) Length - weight relationships</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Discussion and Conclusions</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Summary</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABSTRACT

Studies on species composition, distribution and abundance of the species of anomuran sand crabs were carried out on the exposed sandy beaches along the west coast of Thailand on the Andaman Sea. Three species, Emerita emeritus (L.), Hippa adactyla F. and Albunea symistrata (L.), were collected in the area. E. emeritus was found to be the most abundant species. Fishing grounds, fishing technique and physical and chemical environment were also studied.

Detailed studies are made on the population dynamics of Emerita emeritus in relation to physical and chemical parameters. Data on size composition, sex ratio, growth rates, spawning seasons and length-weight relationship are analyzed. Tidal rhythmic activities and vertical distribution are also discussed.