

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

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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 symnista* (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.