
Organisms associated with the seagrass bed at Ko Tharai, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province

Voranop Viyakarn¹*, Khruawan Khumnertdee¹, Attapon Sophapongse¹, Kornrawee Aiemsomboon¹, Anchana Prathep² and Suchana Chavanich¹
¹*Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, *e-mail: vvoranop@chula.ac.th*
²*Prince of Songkhla University, Songkhla, Thailand*

Organisms associated with the seagrass bed at Ko Tharai, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, were investigated. These included the groups that live in the sediment, on the bottom floor, in the water column, and on the seagrass. Three stations, *i.e.*, eastern, central, and western parts of the seagrass bed were sampled. The results showed that organisms found in the sediment of the seagrass bed were amphipods, polychaetes, and juveniles crabs, which used the seagrass bed for habitat and shelter. On the bottom of the seagrass bed, crabs (Diogenidae and Portunidae) were found. They used seagrass leaves to protect themselves from sunlight during low tide. Most organisms found in the water column were fishes. The most abundant fish groups were Leiognathidae and Siganidae while the economic fish groups were Lutjanidae, Lethrinidae, Serranidae and Sphyraenidae. Scatophagidae, Gobiidae, Syngnathidae, Sepiidae and Penaeidae were also recorded. The organisms associated with seagrass leaves were amphipods and copepods. These organisms also used seagrass leaves as habitat, shelter, and food sources.