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## **Species diversity of marine Ascidians dwelling in the coral reefs of the Khanom-South Islands, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province**

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The species diversity and distribution of ascidians dwelling in the coral reefs of Had Khanom – Mu Ko Thale Tai National Park, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, the southern Gulf of Thailand were investigated. The investigations were conducted at 12 sites in the Mu Ko Thale Tai area and were carried out by SCUBA diving during the daytime and random observation throughout the reefs. The results yielded 10 species of ascidians from 3 orders, 3 families and 5 genera. The genera were *Didemnum* (6), *Diplosoma* (1), *Eudistoma* (1), *Polycarpa* (1) and *Ascidia* (1).