
Species diversity of nudibranches at Had Khanom – Mu Ko Thale Tai National Park, Thailand

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The purpose of this study was to investigate the diversity and habitat ecology of nudibranches at Had Khanom-Mu Ko Thale Tai National Park. Nudibranches belong to the mollusk group (subclass Opisthobranchia), but have no shells protecting their soft bodies. Specimens were collected using the SCUBA diving technique. Then, the specimens were photographed and recorded by using a VDO camera before they were preserved in alcohol. Shapes, body colors, and color patterns of the nudibranches were used to identify to species level. The results showed that nudibranches could be found on coral colonies, coral reefs, and sand substrates between 1-15 m depth of water. At least 18 species of nudibranches were found at Had Khanom - Mu Ko Thale Tai National Park. The species included *Phyllidia elegans*, *Phyllidiella nigra*, *Phyllidia coelestis*, *Phyllidiella pustulosa*, *Fryeria picta*, *Chromodoris preciosa*, *Flabellina rubrolineata*, *Glossodoris atromarginata*, *Jorunna funebris*, *Glossodoris cincta*, *Dendrodoris denisoni*, *Platydorid dierythos*, *Armina* cf. *japonica*, *Bornella stellifer*, *Phyllodesmium magnum*, *Mexichromis multituberculata*, *Thecacera* sp., and *Facelina* sp. The dominant nudibranch species were in the Family Phyllidiidae. Five species were first records for Thailand: *Chromodoris preciosa*, *Glossodoris cincta*, *Dendrodoris denisoni*, *Platydorid dierythos*, and *Bornella stellifer*.