

## ZOOPLANKTON COMMUNITY IN KAPUR MANGROVE CANAL, RANONG PROVINCE

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### ABSTRACT

A study of the zooplankton in Kapur mangrove canal, Ranong Province, was carried out during a 13-month period, January 1994–January 1995. Sampling was conducted monthly during night time on spring tides with 2 mesh-size nets, 330- and 200- $\mu\text{m}$ . Zooplankton of most taxa were more abundant in the NE-monsoon season. Total density of zooplankton from all sampling stations showed maximum values in April (ca. 50,000 ind. $\text{m}^{-3}$ ) and January 1995 (ca. 200,000 ind. $\text{m}^{-3}$ ) from 330- and 200- $\mu\text{m}$  nets, respectively. The numbers of zooplankton phyla in the samples from the two different nets were slightly different. Ash free dry weight of the 300- $\mu\text{m}$  samples presented peaks in April, 138 mg. $\text{m}^{-3}$ , and October, 141 mg. $\text{m}^{-3}$ . Salinity was suggested to be one of the factors influencing the composition, abundance and community structure of zooplankton in the area. The results from this study indicate that the Kapur canal is a productive mangrove ecosystem.