

Mercury in zooplankton from the Malacca Straits.

ABSTRACT

Total mercury concentration in mixed zooplankton was determined from near surface waters in Malacca Straits (05° 59' N, 99° 59' E and 01° 10' N, 103° 29' E). Total mercury concentrations in mixed zooplankton ranged from 1.12 to 4.68 ng dry weight g⁻¹ with a mean of 2.08 ± 0.25 ng dry weight g⁻¹ and showed a decreasing trend from nearshore to offshore areas. Higher mercury concentrations were found in nearshore waters (mean of 2.79 ± 0.49 ng dry weight g⁻¹). Total mercury content was higher in the southern part of the Straits compared to the other parts. The zooplankton in the Malacca Straits environment is not heavily contaminated with mercury.

Keyword: Malacca Straits; Mercury; Zooplankton.