

Field survey and spatial distribution of Tropical Neogastropod, *Thais* spp., along Malaysian Coastal Area.

ABSTRACT

Tropical marine neogastropod has been proposed to be a bioindicator for marine pollution. A field survey was conducted to determine the spatial distribution of *Thais* spp. along the Malaysian coastline. The density of *Thais* spp. in each area was calculated using the timed search method. More than 40 percent of the total surveyed sites were identified to have *Thais* spp. present. On average, the abundance rating for *Thais* spp. in Malaysia was a common species with density (D) of about 720 individuals/hour/ person. About 50 percent of *Thais* spp. habitats can be categorised as a frequent-occasional abundance rating. This study found that *Thais* spp. prefer to occupy a sandy or mixed sedimentary beach with boulder(s) either naturally existing or a man-made wave barrier along reclaimed beaches. This study found that a suitable habitat for *Thais* spp. must consist of prey items being present, exposure to the open sea and strong waves, and must be located within tidal activities. Limited human activities around their habitat do not have direct effects on *Thais* spp. presence. However, further investigations on the implications of human activities in the habitat of *Thais* spp. along Malaysian coastal areas should be conducted.

Keyword: Tropical neogastropod; *Thais* spp.; Spatial distribution; Density; Malaysia.