



Population and distribution of Horseshoe Crab *Carcinoscopius rotundicauda* at the Kranji Nature Trail estuaries, Western Johor Straits

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About the Talk

Objectives of this research project include conducting of sampling proper in order to determine where *C. rotundicauda* occurs within the study site, and to study possible relationships between sub-habitat preference and size class. A baseline low tide map defining the Kranji study site was carried out jointly with a fellow course-mate for ease of potential studies in the future as well as better representation of results. The sampling proper involved the establishment of a search image and subsequent usage of two main methods namely sight and touch method and a self-derived 'poke' method over seven samplings in five main sites and seven different sub-habitats – small pools, shallow streamlets, in streams, edge of streams, on mud and half or fully buried in mud. A total of 162 horseshoe crabs were recorded. Juveniles can be found in high numbers on river banks imperforated with shallow streamlets and small pools while adults were discovered to fully bury themselves, indicating a possibility of high numbers in mudflats. There are plans for year-round studies to be done to better assess the population and the seasonality, if any, of *C. rotundicauda*.

About the speaker

Fiona is a 3rd year undergraduate in Life Sciences with concentration in Pure Biology. She enjoys nature and being with nature. This project is her first attempt in conducting scientific research.

Population and distribution of Mangrove prawns at the Kranji Nature Trail estuaries, Western Johor Straits

Teo Yen Ling
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About the Talk

Six species of prawns are known to be the residents of mangroves at the study site: the snapping shrimps, *Alpheus euprosyne* and *Alpheus microrhynchus*, the back mangrove shrimps, *Caridina propinqua*, *Potamalpheops tigger*, *Potamalpheops johnsoni* and *Athanas polymorphus*. This study was focused on the distribution of the snapping shrimps, *Alpheus* spp.. In Singapore mangroves, the snapping sound generated by the enlarged claw of *Alpheus* spp. is commonly heard but rarely seen. In this study, this sound was used as audio cue to detect the snapping shrimps occurrence. However, only one species of snapping shrimps, *A. euprosyne*, was found in large number in this study. These shrimps were patchily distributed as they were found in very specific parts of the study site. *C. propinqua* was found at area near to back mangrove, while *P. tigger*, *P. johnsoni* and *A. polymorphus* were found together at the sample site of *A. euprosyne*.

Department of Biological Sciences Seminar Announcement (Biodiversity and Ecology Journal Club)

All are welcome

Friday, 4th June 2004
3.00pm – 4.00pm

DBS Seminar Room 4

Blk S2, Level 2, Department of Biological Sciences, The National University of Singapore Science Drive 4

Visitors may park at Carpark 10

and

Saturday 12th June 2004
2pm - 3pm

Sungei Buloh Wetlands Reserve
Visitor Centre Theatrette

Talk will be followed by a short field trip.

Host: N. Sivasothi

