

Occurrence of parasitic barnacles Sacculinidae (Rhizocephala) infection on mud crab *Scylla olivacea* in Sabah, Malaysia

Abstract

The present study was conducted to investigate the occurrence of parasitic barnacle sacculinid infection on mud crabs *Scylla* spp. in Marudu Bay from October 2012 to September 2013. Three species of mud crabs were found; *Scylla tranquebarica*, *S. paramamosain* and *S. olivacea*. However sacculinid infection was only found in *S. olivacea*. Approximately 51.5% (85 out of 165 individuals) of the *S. olivacea* caught were infected. On average, the infection in male and female of *S. olivacea* was almost similar, 48.4% male and 59.6% female ($p > 0.05$). The infected male can be found every month while infected female was found high towards the end of Northeast monsoon (wet season) from February onwards until end of the Southwest monsoon in September (dry season). The present study showed the sacculinid infection exhibited no clear specificity on neither sex nor seasonal as infection can be found throughout the year.