

Occurrence of Epibiont Barnacles *Chelonibia testudinaria* on Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas* at Brunei Bay

ABSTRACT

Background and Objectives: Barnacles are sessile organisms that attach themselves permanently to the surface of hard or living substrates. Turtle barnacles are also commonly found as epibionts on other marine organisms. Marine turtles are one example of living substrates colonised by barnacles. A sampling activity was conducted on April, 2016 objectively to observe the barnacles as an epibiosis on Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) of Brunei bay, located at Lawas, Sabah. This survey intended to identify the species of barnacle species infested on Green turtles in these areas and the specific location of attachment on the bodies of turtles. Materials and Methods: Turtles were sampled using netting traps which cover the feeding area. The samples were collected during low tide when the turtles were already stranded in the target location. The turtles were released after the data for carapace width and length, weight and barnacle attachment were recorded. Data were analyzed using standard analysis Microsoft Excel 2007 and the prevalence of the epibiont was calculated using standard methods. Results and Discussion: *Chelonibia testudinaria* were identified from 5 sea turtles ($n = 5$) which were trapped. Due to the previous study, *C. testudinaria* is specific to marine turtles especially *C. mydas*. The site preferences for most of the barnacles were on the carapace (30.6%) of the turtles. Conclusion: From the observation, the environmental and habitat are the contributing factors that affect the prevalence of the barnacle attachment on the host body.