

DIVERSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF CHAETOGNATHS  
OF DIFFERENT MARINE ENVIRONMENTS ALONG THE  
STRAITS OF MALACCA

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## Diversity and distribution of chaetognaths of different marine environments along the straits of Malacca / Heidi Jane De Guzman.



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**DIVERSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF CHAETOGNATHS OF DIFFERENT  
MARINE ENVIRONMENTS ALONG THE STRAITS OF MALACCA**

By

**HEIDI JANE DE GUZMAN**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra  
Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of  
Science**

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## Dedication

This work is dedicated to my beloved parents, Jovito de Guzman and Helen de Guzman for their endless love and support. To my siblings, Clarence Christopher, Christy Claire, and Rachel Jolen for their understanding and encouragement.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Masters of Science

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**2011**

**Chairperson: Professor Fatimah Md. Yusoff, PhD**

**Institute : Institute of Bioscience**

Two different study sites were selected along the coastal areas of the Straits of Malacca for the determination of the biodiversity and distribution of chaetognaths in polluted and pristine environments. These are the coastal waters off an industrial area, Kuala Juru (between 05°19.91'N, 100°23.75'E and 05°19.68'N, 100°22.95'E) and coastal waters off mangrove forest, Kuala Gula (between 04°55.19'N, 100°27.84'E and 04°55.01'N, 100°27.76'E). Zooplankton and water samples from the coastal waters off Kuala Juru and coastal waters off Kuala Gula were collected monthly from August 2007 to July 2008. Samples for biodiversity study were collected by vertical tows (from the deepest depth at every station) from three randomly selected stations in each ecosystem using conical shaped (with mouth opening size of 0.30 m and 1.00 m length) plankton net with 100 µm mesh with an acrylic plastic cod end. Samples for biomass and taxonomic analyses were

preserved in buffered formalin at 5% concentration. Chaetognaths enumeration and identification were done under dissecting microscope. Biomass of the chaetognaths was determined using different standard techniques (wet, dry weight and ash free dry weight for total chaetognaths). A total of 11 species of chaetognaths from seven genera were identified from Kuala Gula samples, compared to nine species and four genera from Kuala Juru. The most abundant species in Kuala Gula was *S. regularis* (162.48 ind./m<sup>3</sup>). Similarly, this species accounted the highest density in Kuala Juru (55.11 ind./m<sup>3</sup>). The mean Shannon Index (*H'*) value for Kuala Gula and Kuala Juru were 2.3 and 2.1, respectively. The species richness (d) were d=2.6 for Kuala Gula and d=2.3 for Kuala Juru. Cluster analyses and multi-dimensional scaling analyses revealed two characteristics of chaetognath populations in the coastal areas. The coastal waters off a mangrove reserve was characterized by high-density and high species diversity, whereas the coastal waters off a polluted industrial area was characterized by a relatively low-density and low species diversity. Samples from three different ecosystems were analyzed for the determination of the distribution of chaetognaths from other coastal ecosystems along the Straits of Malacca.

These three sampling locations were located in the coastal waters off a shrimp aquaculture farm (SAF), (between 03°15.11'N 101°17.79'E and 03°16.42'N 101°14.96'E); fish cage mariculture area (CMA); (between 03°00.67'N 101°16.27'E and 02°59.77'N 101°16.7'E), and seagrass area (SGA), (01°20.045'N 103°35.99'E and 01°19.78'N 103°05.67'E). Cluster and

multi-dimensional scale analysis revealed three characteristics of chaetognaths communities from the three coastal ecosystems. The mean Shannon Index ( $H'$ ) value for SAF overall was 1.9, 1.7 for CMA, and 1.6 for SGA, with d (Margalef's species richness) values of 2.0, 1.6, and 1.4 respectively. The coastal waters SAF was characterized by high-density values and high species diversity, CMA was characterized by a low-density values and low species diversity and similarly, the SGA was characterized by a low-density values and low species richness.

In addition to different density and biodiversity between the polluted and unpolluted areas, individual chaetognath also showed some fouling on the body surface. Chaetognaths from the pristine environment showed the most fouling by organisms on the body surface compared to those from nonpolluted area. The highest percentage of biofouling invasion was aquatic fungus from the Kingdom Chromista (73.68%), followed by parasitic fungus (18.42%), and the least was bacteria (7.90%). Bacterial colonization (10.0%) was only observed in deformed chaetognaths collected from the polluted coastal waters off the industrial area. Although there was a high percentages of periphytic invasion on chaetognaths body collected from both sites, significantly higher ( $p<0.05$ ) percentage of more destructive periphytes in the chaetognaths were found in Kuala Juru than in Kuala Gula.

This study illustrated that chaetognaths distribution was influenced by geographical locations and the species characteristics of the environment.

*Aidanosagitta neglecta* was found to be the most dominant chaetognath species which was able to tolerate variable environmental conditions. In addition, significantly ( $p<0.05$ ) higher percentage of biofouling on chaetognath occurred in pristine environment.

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Dua kawasan kajian yang berbeza telah dipilih di sepanjang perairan Selat Melaka untuk menentukan kepelbagaian dan taburan chaetognath di kawasan perairan tercemar dan kawasan tidak tercemar. Kawasan-kawasan ini adalah kawasan perairan tercemar berdekatan zon perindustrian, Kuala Juru (di antara  $05^{\circ}19.91'N$ ,  $100^{\circ}23.75'E$  dan  $05^{\circ}19.68'N$ ,  $100^{\circ}22.95'E$ ) dan kawasan hutan simpan paya bakau, Kuala Gula (di antara  $04^{\circ}55.19'N$ ,  $100^{\circ}27.84'E$  dan  $04^{\circ}55.01'N$ ,  $100^{\circ}27.76'E$   $01^{\circ}20.045'N$   $103^{\circ}35.99'E$  dan  $01^{\circ}19.78'N$   $103^{\circ}05.67'E$ ). Persampelan air dan chaetognath telah dijalankan di Kuala Juru dan Kuala Gula bermula dari Ogos 2007 sehingga Julai 2008. Sampel bagi analisis kepelbagaian (tiga replikat) telah diambil secara tundaan menegak (pada kedalaman terdalam di setiap stesen persampelan) di tiga stesen yang telah dipilih secara rawak dari setiap ekosistem dengan menggunakan jaring plankton (saiz jaringan  $100\ \mu m$ ) yang terdapat kod

plastik akrilik di hujungnya. Bagi analisis biomas dan taksonomi, sampel diawet menggunakan formalin berkepekatan 5% yang telah dicampur bersama penampang. Enumerasi dan identifikasi chaetognath dijalankan di bawah mikroskop pembedahan. Biomass bagi chaetognath ditentukan melalui tiga kaedah piawai (berat basah, berat kering dan berat kering tanpa abu). Sebanyak 11 spesies chaetognath dan tujuh genus telah dikenalpasti dari sampel Kuala Gula, berbanding dengan sembilan spesies dan empat genus dari Kuala Juru. Nilai Shannon Indeks ( $H'$ ) untuk Kuala Gula dan Kuala Gula adalah masing-masing sebanyak 2.3 dan 2.1. Spesis yang mencatatkan kepadatan tertinggi di Kuala Gula ialah *S. regularis* (162.48 ind./m<sup>3</sup>). Spesis ini juga mencatatkan kepadatan yang tertinggi di Kuala Juru (55.11 ind./m<sup>3</sup>). Sementara itu, kekayaan spesies ( $d$ ) adalah  $d=2.6$  bagi Kuala Gula dan  $d=2.3$  bagi Kuala Juru. Melalui analisis kluster dan skala multidimensi, didapati komuniti chaetognath memperlihatkan dua sifat yang nyata daripada dua ekosistem yang dipilih sepanjang perairan Selat Melaka. Hutan simpan paya bakau dikategorikan sebagai kawasan yang mempunyai nilai kepadatan, kepelbagaian species, dan kekayaan spesies yang tinggi. Walau bagaimanapun, hutan paya bakau berdekatan zon perindustrian mempunyai nilai kepadatan, kepelbagaian species, and kekayaan spesies yang agak rendah jika dibandingkan dengan hutan simpan paya bakau.

Sampel dari tiga ekosistem sepanjang Selat Melaka dianalisis bagi menentukan taburan chaetognath dari ekosistem yang berbeza. Stesen-stesen ini adalah kawasan perairan ladang penternakan udang, (SAF),

(antara  $03^{\circ}15.11'N$   $101^{\circ}17.79'E$  dan  $03^{\circ}16.42'N$   $101^{\circ}14.96'E$ ); kawasan penternakan ikan dalam sangkar (CMA), (antara  $03^{\circ}00.67'N$   $101^{\circ}16.27'E$  dan  $02^{\circ}59.77'N$   $101^{\circ}16.7'E$ ); dan kawasan rumput laut (SGA), (antara  $01^{\circ}20.045'N$   $103^{\circ}35.99'E$  dan  $01^{\circ}19.78'N$   $103^{\circ}05.67'E$ ). Analisis kluster dan analisis skala multi-dimensi menunjukkan tiga sifat komuniti chaetognath dari ketiga-tiga ekosistem ini.. Min Indeks Shannon ( $H'$ ) untuk SAF adalah 1.9, 1.7 untuk CMA, dan 1.6 untuk SGA, dan nilai d (kekayaan spesies Margalef) adalah 2.0, 1.6, dan 1.4 masing-masing. SAF mempunyai nilai kepadatan dan kepelbagaian spesis chaetognath yang tinggi, CMA mempunyai nilai kepadatan dan kepelbagaian spesis chaetognath yang rendah, dan begitu juga dengan SGA, mempunyai nilai kepadatan dan kepelbagaian spesis chaetognath yang rendah, dan begitu juga dengan SGA.

Sebagai tambahan kepada kepadatan dan kepelbagaian antara kawasan perairan tercemar dan kawasan tidak tercemar, permukaan badan individu chaetognath juga menunjukkan kehadiran organisme penempel. Chaetognaths dari kawasan hutan simpan paya bakau menunjukkan kehadiran organisme penempel yang lebih tinggi berbanding kawasan yang tidak tercemar. Peratus tertinggi organisme penempel adalah fungus akuatik dari Alam Chromista (58.3%), diikuti fungus parasitik (18.42%), manakala peratus terendah adalah bakteria (7.90%). Koloni bakteria (10.0%) hanya didapati pada chaetognath yang abnormal yang disampel dari perairan tercemar berdekatan zon perindustrian. Walaupun terdapat peratusan yang tinggi bagi organisme penempel pada chaetognath yang disampel dari

kedua-dua stesen, peratus organisma penempel yang lebih tinggi ( $p<0.05$ ) dikenalpasti pada chaetognath yang disampel dari Kuala Juru berbanding Kuala Gula.

Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa taburan chaetognath dipengaruhi oleh lokasi dan sifat persekitaran tertentu. *Aidanosagitta neglecta* ialah spesies yang menunjukkan kepadatan chaetognaths tertinggi yang dapat menyesuaikan diri dalam persekitaran yang pelbagai. Sebagai tambahan, kehadiran organisma penumpang adalah lebih tinggi ( $p<0.05$ ) pada permukaan badan chaetognaths dari kawasan perairan tidak tercemar.