

HEAVY METALS CONTENT IN MARINE MOLLUSCS AND  
THE BARNACLE, *Tetraclita sp.* ALONG THE ROCKY SHORES OF THE  
EAST & WEST COAST OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

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**BY**

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This project report is submitted in partial fulfillment of  
The requirements for the Degree of  
Bachelor of Science ( Marine Science )

Faculty of Applied Science and Technology  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA TERENGGANU

1999

1100024145

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

While it is impossible to mention everyone whom directly and indirectly helped me to finish my final year project, I would like to thank the following individuals:

Prof. Madya Dr. Noor Azhar b. Mohd. Shazili, my supervisor, who provided useful advice, guidance and help.

Mr. Liew Hock Chark, who provided statistical assistance.

Johari, Fadzhir and Nashrul, lab assistants, who helped me to collect samples.

My family, who provided endless love, moral and financial support.

All of my housemates, including Poh Chin, Chon Wah and Grace, for giving emotional support.

All of my friends, like Sin Lee, Apple, Siew Keng, Yann Yann, James, Hoe Ming, Fluorin, Yani, and friends, who provided help and support.

My million thanks to all.

Liow Seow Yoke

## ABSTRACT

A study was undertaken to determine the influence of body size upon heavy metals concentration in marine molluscs and the barnacle, *Tetraclita sp.* and to compare heavy metals level between genus and between sampling sites. The concentrations of zinc, iron, copper, cadmium, chromium and lead in *Saccostrea sp.*, *Nerita sp.*, *Thais sp. a*, *Thais sp. b*, *Littorina sp.*, *Neritina sp.*, *Tetraclita sp.* and *Patella sp.*, which were collected from the East and West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia, were studied for this purpose.

Anova of regression showed that the majority of metals content did not have significant correlation with body size ( $P>0.05$ ). These results indicate that metals concentration were independent of size. A significant inverse correlation between metals concentration and size was detected in most of the marine molluscs and the barnacle, *Tetraclita sp.*, particularly for iron, cadmium, chromium, lead and zinc ( $P<0.05$ ). For these elements, the smallest individuals had the highest levels. In a few cases, highest concentrations were recorded in the largest individuals, especially copper.

The levels of lead in *Neritina sp.* and the levels of zinc, copper and cadmium in most of the marine molluscs and the barnacle, *Tetraclita sp.* exceeded maximum permissible levels (MPL) stipulated in the Malaysian Food Act 1983, which limits metal contents in fish and fish products to 2 ppm Pb, 100 ppm Zn, 30 ppm Cu and 1 ppm Cd dry weight. For the other metals, the limits have not been specified in the Food Act 1983.

## ABSTRAK

Satu kajian tentang pengaruh saiz badan terhadap kepekatan logam berat dalam invertebrat dan perbandingan tahap logam berat antara genus dan antara lokasi telah dikaji. Kepekatan zink, ferum, kadmium, kromium dan plumbum dalam *Saccostrea sp.*, *Nerita sp.*, *Thais sp. a.*, *Thais sp. b.*, *Littorina sp.*, *Neritina sp.*, *Tetraclita sp.* dan *Patella sp.* yang dikutip di sepanjang pantai timur dan barat Semenanjung Malaysia dikaji bagi tujuan tersebut.

Anova regresi tidak menunjukkan perbezaan bererti bagi perhubungan korelasi bagi kebanyakan kandungan logam dengan saiz badan ( $P > 0.05$ ). Keputusan ini menyatakan kepekatan logam-logam adalah tidak dipengaruhi oleh saiz. Perbezaan bererti bagi perhubungan korelasi yang tersongsang antara kepekatan logam-logam dengan saiz dikesan bagi kebanyakan invertebrat, terutamanya ferum, kadmium, kromium, plumbum dan zink ( $P < 0.05$ ). Semakin kecil saiz, semakin tinggi kepekatan logam yang didapati. Kadang-kadang, kepekatan logam yang tinggi juga dapat dikesan bagi invertebrat yang mempunyai saiz yang besar, terutamanya kuprum.

Tahap kepekatan plumbum dalam *Neritina sp.* dan tahap kepekatan zink, kuprum dan kadmium dalam kebanyakan invertebrat didapati melebihi tahap maksimum kebenaran penggunaan yang ditetapkan oleh Akta Makanan Malaysia 1983 di mana had kandungan logam dalam ikan dan pengeluaran ikan adalah 2 ppm plumbum, 100 ppm zink, 30 ppm kuprum dan 1 ppm kadmium (berdasarkan berat kering). Bagi logam-logam yang lain, keterhadannya adalah tidak ditetapkan dalam Akta makanan 1983.