

TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF TAR-BALLS STRANDED ON
THE BEACHES OF TERENGGANU

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2005

TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF TAR-BALLS STRANDED ON THE BEACHES OF
TERENGGANU

By

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Research Report in partial fulfillment of
the requirements of the degree of Bachelor of
Science (Marine Biology)

Department of Marine Science

Faculty of Science and Technology

KOLEJ UNIVERSITI SAINS DAN TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

2005

1100034628

This project report should be cited as:

Chandru, K. 2005. Temporal distribution of tar-balls stranded on the beaches of Terengganu. Undergraduate thesis, Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology, Faculty of Science and Technology, Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia, Terengganu.130 p

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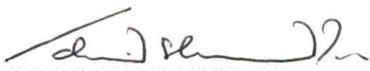


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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Much credit for the accomplishment of this thesis goes to my supervisor Professor Dr. Law Ah Theem who has offered valuable information, advice, comments and criticism. I am also particularly indebted to Dr. Kamil Abdul Rashid, Dr. Siti Aishah Abdullah, Dr. Nor Anotonina and Professor Dr. Chan Eng Heng for their contributions.

I would also like to convey my gratitude to Professor. Dr. Law Ah Theem's postgraduate students; Mr. Yong Jaw Chuen, Mr. Chin Kam Yew and Chuah Lai Fatt for their assistance and support. Special thanks also go to the Oceanography laboratory assistants Mr. Kamari, Mr. Sulaiman, Mr. Raja and Mr. Kamarun that graciously supply much information and help while conducting this study.

I would also like to take this advantage to specially thank my friends; Mr. Kesavan Bhubalan, Mr. Satheesh Rao, Mr. Soma Sundram, Mr. Saravanan, Mr. Vickneswaran, Mr. Karthigeyan, Mr. Tanabalan, Mr. Arul Das, Mr. Willison Khoo, Ms. Sathiya Bharathi, Ms. Devika Balan and Ms Cheryl Rita Kaur for their interest and enthusiasm in helping me conduct this study.

Continuous support given by my parents, Mr. Balasanthiran and Madam Paravathy ensured my success in completing this thesis.

Finally, I am grateful for the unlimited support, help and guidance provided by all those mentioned above.

Kuhan Chandru

UK 6541

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DCM	-	Dichloromethane
%	-	Percentage
g	-	Gram
mg	-	Milli gram
ng	-	Nano gram
μg	-	Micro gram
mL	-	Milli litre
μL	-	Micro litre
gm ⁻¹	-	Gram per metre stride
ppm	-	Parts per million
[C]	-	Concentration

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ABSTRACT

Tar-ball distribution on the beach is frequently used as a pollution indicator for the extent of oil spills. The South China Sea off the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia is an active site for offshore oil production; therefore Terengganu is vulnerable to tar-balls pollution. Three sampling stations were established for this study; Pengkalan Maras (Station 1), Kampung Pagar Besi (Station 2) and Kampung Panjang (Station 3). The tar-balls stranded on the beach were collected from August 2004 to January 2005. The parameters studied were the intensity, size distribution and tar-sand proportion of tar-balls. The quantitative and qualitative of hydrocarbons constitution of tar-balls are also studied. The results indicate that the tar ball intensity of all stations have exceeded the standard pollution level set by UNEP (1992). The intensity of tar-balls distribution at Station 1 ranged between 7.47 gm^{-1} and 142.48 gm^{-1} ; at Station 2 ranged between 2.57 gm^{-1} and 84.91 gm^{-1} ; and at Station 3 ranged 0.63 gm^{-1} and 398.49 gm^{-1} . Generally there was an indication of an increasing trend of tar-balls intensity on beach during the Northeast monsoon season. Majority of the tar-balls collected were small in size. Most of the tar-balls collected consisted of more sand than tar. This study reveals that Terengganu's beach is polluted with tar-balls.

ABSTRAK

Taburan bebola tar di atas pantai lazimnya digunakan sebagai petunjuk pencemaran bagi tumpahan minyak. Laut China Selatan di perairan Malaysia merupakan tempat yang aktif bagi aktiviti carigali minyak mentah, oleh itu Negeri Terengganu sangat mudah terdedah kepada pencemaran bebola tar. Tiga stesen penyampelan telah dipilih untuk kajian ini; Pengkalan Maras (Stesen 1), Kampung Pagar Besi (Stesen 2) dan Kampung Panjang (Stesen 3). Bebola tar di atas pantai dikutip dari bulan Ogos 2004 hingga ke bulan Januari 2005. Paramater yang digunakan dalam kajian ini adalah kepadatan, taburan saiz dan pecahan tar-pasir dalam bebola tar. Kajian tentang kualitatif dan kuantitatif komposisi hydrocarbon juga telah dijalankan. Keputusan dari kajian ini menyatakan bahawa kepadatan bebola tar bagi ketiga-tiga stesen telah melebihi piawai pencemaran yang ditetapkan oleh UNEP (1992). Kepadatan bebola tar di Stesen 1 adalah di antara 7.47 gm^{-1} dan 142.48 gm^{-1} ; Stesen 2 diantara 2.57 gm^{-1} dan 84.91 gm^{-1} ; dan Stesen 3 pula diantara 0.63 gm^{-1} dan 398.49 gm^{-1} . Secara amnya, terdapat indikasi corak peningkatan kepadatan bebola tar di atas pantai semasa musim monsun timur-utara. Kebanyakan bebola tar yang dikutip adalah kecil dari segi saiz. Kebanyakan bebola tar mengandungi lebih banyak pasir berbanding tar. Kajian ini mendedahkan bahawa, Negeri Terengganu dicemari oleh bebola tar.