319 - ETOLOGY OF THE MANGROVE CRAB UCIDES CORDATUS (LINNAEUS, 1763) (CRUSTACEA, BRACHYURA, OCYPODIDAE), AT BABITONGA BAY (SC), BRAZIL: "ANDADA" PHENOMENOM

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During October'2002 to February'2003 the "andada" behavior of the mangrove crab Ucides cordatus was registered at Babitonga Bay mangroves, in Santa Catarina State, Brazil. Daily observations were made in a same demarcated mangrove area (100m^2), quantifying the active behavior by the number of individuals walking on sediment, as well as agonistic interactions and foam release by males. A high activity was detected in December'2002 mainly associated with full and new moons. Lunar cycle and climatic conditions (sunny or cloudy days) do not influence significantly the animal activity ($p>0.05$). However, mangrove inundation degree (flooded or dry) was very important for the animal activity, with a higher density during high tides (5 crabs/m^2.day) than low tides (3 crabs/m^2.day). Agonistic interactions were not registered, but bubbling individuals occurred some days before "andada" behavior. This behavior was directly associated with reproductive period of this species, mainly with mating and larval release during spring tides.
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