82 - FEEDING FREQUENCY VARIATION IN THE MANGROVE CRAB UCIDES CORDATUS (LINNAEUS, 1763) (BRACHYURA, OCYPODIDAE), AT DIFFERENT MANGROVES IN IGUAPE REGION (SP), BRAZIL

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Ucides cordatus is an important species contributing to the energy flow in mangroves due to its burrowing and feeding habits. The aim of this study was to evaluate the feeding frequency of this species in three mangrove areas with different vegetation composition, sediment, organic matter content and leaves availability on the soil. Differences between males and females and between young and adults were also tested. Crabs were collected in Iguape (SP) from December/2003 to March/2004, and preserved in a freezer. For analyses, four stomach replenishment categories were established and no differences in their proportions were observed neither between sexes nor between immature and mature crabs. However, the animals sampled at Rhizophora mangle (RM) ingested significantly more frequently food than the ones collected at the Laguncularia racemosa (LR) area. No differences were found between those and the crabs collected at Avicennia schaueriana area. Such contrasts may be due to the differences in silt/clay content of the sediment (RM = 97%; LR = 38%), organic matter content (RM = 5.3±6.0g/m^2; LR = 0.1±0.1g/m^2) and leaves available on the soil (RM = 5.3±6.0g/m^2; LR = 0.1±0.1g/m^2) between these areas. These results are of great importance for an initial understanding of the trophic ecology of this mangrove crab and the influence of environmental factors on crabs nutrition and growth.
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83 – INTERANNUAL VARIATION IN THE POPULATION STRUCTURE OF THE SWIMMING ARENAEUS CRIBRARIUS (LAMARCK, 1818) (DECAPODA, PORTUNIDAE), IN UBATUBA (SP), BRAZIL"

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In despite of the economical importance of swimming crabs, their consume is inexpressive in Brazilian southeast region if compared with other crustaceans and fishes, being commonly rejected in shrimp fishery, but considered as an associated fauna. The aim of the present study was to compare the structure, sex ratio and population recruitment of the swimming crab Arenaeus cribrarius in Ubatuba region (SP), using specimens collected in periods from 1991-1993 and 1996-1997, with shrimp fishery boat equipped with double rigged nets. Three annual recruitments were detected, usually more intense during the summer and winter and more expressive in 1996-1997 ($p<0.001$), due to a more intense recruitment detected in 1996. The sex ratio was different from 1:1 in 1991-1993 ($p<0.001$), with reduction in female proportion in 1996-1997, which resulted in a similar probability between the sexes ($p = 0.45$). Both sexes and their maturation stage (young and adult) showed lower average size during 1996-1997 period ($p<0.001$). These variations observed in the population of A. cribrarius could be caused by various factors, the most probable are: 1) the retention of largest individuals by fishermen for commercialization; 2) competition with other sympatric species (i.e. the exotic swimming crab Charybdis hellerii); and 3) the high pollution rate and its negative influence on growth and maturation of individuals. Even so, the abundance of this species did not show expressive decrease during the period, besides an evident increase at the proportion of young and maintenance of reproductive process, characterizing its relative plasticity to the parameters mentioned previously.
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