

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS

After 13 months of sampling south of the Bangpakong River's mouth, Chon Buri Province, and along the coast of Baan Laem, Phetchaburi Province,

1. A total of 6 species of rhizomedusae (Cnidaria, Scyphozoa) were yielded. They are *Cassiopea andromeda* (Forskål, 1775), *Acromitus flagellatus* (Maas, 1903), *Acromitus hardenbergi*, *Catostylus townsendi* Mayer, 1915, *Lobonema smithii* Mayer, 1910, and *Rhopilema hispidum* (Vanhöffen, 1888).
2. All 6 species of rhizomedusae were found at Phetchaburi Province. In comparison, only 4 species were found at Chon Buri Province. *C. townsendi* and *L. smithii* were not obtained from Chon Buri's samplings.
3. The highest abundance of rhizomedusae occurred during March 2000 and November 2000 at Chon Buri and Phetchaburi, respectively. When the abundance of both locations were compared, the abundance at Phetchaburi Province appeared to be higher in magnitude than the abundance at Chon Buri Province.
4. Factors believed to affect the abundance of rhizomedusae at the two provinces are water current, salinity, food concentration in term of zooplankton concentration, and the life history of each species.

Apart from their important roles as economic species in the jellyfish fishery industry, rhizostome scyphozoans are also considered an integral part of the marine ecosystem. Their predatory behaviors are believed to pose major impacts on the fish stocks of economically important species. In order to establish a better understanding of these complex animals as well conservation for sustainable utilization of this fishery resource, more information regarding the ecology, growth rate, and reproductive biology of rhizomedusae is extremely crucial. The knowledge on growth rate, in addition to the

information on the polyps and the benthic stages, will be useful in the understanding of the complex life cycle of these organisms.



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