

The Living Fossil (Horseshoe crab)

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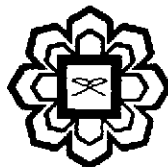
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CHAPTER – 7

Physicochemical parameters relationship at the horseshoe crab nesting grounds of Pahang coast, Malaysia

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Abstract

We examined the linear relationship between the selected physicochemical parameters observed at the horseshoe crab nesting grounds along the Pahang coast, Malaysia. Physicochemical parameters such as Salinity, pH, surface water temperature and Dissolved oxygen were recorded using handheld multiparameter meter model Hanna HI 9828. there were no significant relationships observed between selected parameters in both the sampling stations except between salinity and dissolved oxygen during monsoon season in Balok station ($r^2=0.582$) and between pH and temperature during monsoon season in Pekan station ($r^2=0.604$). Since the external environmental parameters in synergetic fashion influences the macrobenthic community which are the prime source of food for shore reaching horseshoe crabs, present data would be an instrumental for various management plan to protect the horseshoe crab population along the Pahang coast.

Key words: horseshoe crabs, nesting grounds, physicochemical parameters, water quality and macrobenthic community.