Identification of Mud Crab Species in Coastal Areas of Pangasinan

Rolando B. Cerezo* and Mariel C. Tapia

Pangasinan State University
Lingayen, Pangasinan
**rbcerezo@yahoo.com*

Abstract

The study was conducted to identify the mud crab species (*Scylla* spp.) that thrive in 12 coastal municipalities and 2 cities in Pangasinan. Ten mud crab samples were taken from each of the sampling site and classified based on Keenan et al. (1998). Likewise, the abundance and differences in size and weight of the mud crab samples were determined.

The study showed that there are only three mud crab species, *Scylla serrata*, *S. tranquebarica* and *S. olivacea*, found in the coastal areas of Pangasinan. *S. serrata* was the most abundant species (54.28%), followed by *S. tranquebarica* (24.28%) and *S. olivacea* (22.14%). Crabs weighing more than 300 g (≥ 12 cm carapace width or CW) were obtained from the municipalities of Anda, Bolinao, Dasol, Burgos, Bani, Agno, Alaminos and Infanta. These municipalities are geographically situated in coastal areas where *S. serrata* are found. Crabs weighing below 300 g (≤ 12 cm CW) were collected from the municipalities of Sual, Labrador, San Fabian, Lingayen, Dagupan and Binmaley. These towns have mangrove areas and low saline waters where *S. tranquebarica* and *S. olivacea* thrive.