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CHUKIAT DILOKRATTATRAKUL : MORPHOLOGICAL AND
NUMERICAL TAXONOMY OF OYSTERS IN THAILAND. THESIS ADVISORS :
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Random sampling of 418 oysters was made, drawing samples from 11 provinces along the coast of Thailand; 6 provinces are on the Gulf of Thailand viz. Trat, Chanthaburi, Rayong, Chon buri, Chumphon and Pattani and 5 provinces are on the Andaman Sea viz. Satun, Trang, Krabi, Phangnga and Ranong. Based on shell morphology and numerical analyses, the samples were classified as being family Ostreidae, subfamily Crassostreinae, 2 tribes, 2 genera and 5 species.

Numerical analysis was carried out by the SPSS computer program, using discriminant analysis and hierarchical cluster analysis. Discriminant analysis shows that the morphological method yields the best percentage of correctly identified oyster samples i.e., 87.1%; *Saccostrea cucullata*, 86.3%; *Crassostrea sp.*, 87.5%; *Crassostrea lugubris*, 92%; *Crassostrea belcheri*, 100% and *Saccostrea mordax*, 53.3%.

Hierarchical cluster analysis shows the relationship between oyster species and sample location. For genus *Saccostrea*, samples from the group of *Saccostrea cucullata* were more closely related to each other than they were to the group of *Saccostrea mordax*. For genus *Crassostrea*, group of *Crassostrea lugubris* has a closer relationship with *Crassostrea sp.* than with *Crassostrea belcheri*.