

Diversity of Sea Stars (Asteroidea) in Baluran National Park Bilik Beach Intertidal Zone As a Source of Learning Biology

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Abstract

Starfish (Asteroidea) is one of the biota that make up Bilik Beach, Baluran National Park. The aim of the research was to determine the diversity of starfish species (Asteroidea) in the intertidal zone of Bilik Beach, Baluran National Park, Situbondo Regency, East Java. The research method used is survey method. Data collection was carried out by site surveys, determining research locations, sampling, observing, and identifying species. Sampling was carried out when the seawater reached its maximum ebb. The research location uses 3 stations with location points that represent the area of Bilik Beach. Sampling used transect plotting technique with a total of 3 transects at each station. Based on the research results, 2 types of starfish (Asteroidea) were found, namely *Linckia laevigata* and *Archaster typicus*. The results of the calculation of the diversity index of starfish (Asteroidea) found on Bilik Beach are 0.44 which is relatively low. The findings of sea stars are used as a learning resource in the form of popular scientific books.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Indonesia is believed to have very high marine resources which are spread over more than 99,093 km of coastline, 70% of which is marine area (BIG 2013; Farhan and Lim 2011). Given that several species of Echinodermata are important animals in determining the structure of marine habitats and can represent a large part of ecosystem biomass, it is important to know new information about the biology of the species and their geographic distribution. Echinoderms play a very important role in a marine ecosystem, one of which is the starfish (Rodrigues, 2016:1).

The territorial waters have various coastal resources, one of which is Echinodermata. Baluran National Park is one of the national parks in East Java, in which there is Bilik Beach. Bilik Beach has abiotic factors that affect the diversity and abundance of germplasm such as marine invertebrates (Setiawan *et al.*, 2019: 193). This is reinforced by Mutaqin *et al* (2020: 183) stating that in the intertidal zone Bilik Beach has a high diversity of marine biota due to support from environmental factors, such as seagrass communities, tidal conditions, macro benthic marine algae populations, plankton, to the number of shelters available for marine life.

The existence of starfish (Asteroidea) itself is an animal associated with coral reefs, cleaning beaches from organic material so that it is one of the bio-indicators of a clean sea. In general, Echinoderms achieve the highest diversity in the ocean, on coral reefs and shallow beaches. This is because the larvae of echinoderms, especially starfish and sea urchins, are pelagic and usually swim long distances so that they can expand their distribution (Jalaluddin and Ardeslan, 2017:82).

Sea stars (Asteroidea) are biota from the phylum Echinodermata which are quite commercial, namely as biota kept in aquariums. This animal also has a very high economic value so it is used as decoration and souvenirs (Lalombombuida *et al.*, 2019: 40). Utilization and processing of starfish (Asteroidea) body parts can produce glycoside compounds which are useful as antibiotic ingredients (Mbanu *et al.*, 2020). As a result of the utilization carried out by humans by trading these animals and not paying attention to the number of animals caught, it is bad for the growth of marine organisms, resulting in a decrease in population.

Research on the diversity of starfish species (Asteroidea) has previously been carried out by Yuanditra (2015) and Vendi (2016) at Bama Beach, Baluran National Park. The results of Yuanditra's research (2015) show that there are three types of starfish species on Bama Beach, namely *Archaster typicus*, *Linckia laevigata* and

Asteropsis carinifera. Vendi (2016), found

3 types of starfish (Asteroidea) in his research namely *Linckia laevigata*, *Archaster typicus* and *Echinaster callosus*. According to Vendi (2016), starfish (Asteroidea) can be found starting from sandy, mud, seagrass to coral substrate conditions.

This study aims to complement or add information regarding insights regarding the abundance of starfish (Asteroidea) found in Bilik Beach, Baluran National Park, Situbondo, East Java, as well as looking for the diversity index of starfish (Asteroidea) that have been found on Bilik Beach to determine the level of diversity. The starfish on this beach are in the high, medium or low category. The findings of starfish (Asteroidea) will be used as learning resources in the form of popular scientific books.

Learning is a process of interaction between students and educators as well as learning resources in the learning environment (Suratno *et al.*, 2018: 45). Learning resources are something that can contain messages to be presented through the use of tools or by himself, or something that can be used as conveying messages stored in the learning material to be provided (Daryanto, 2016). Learning resources have a fairly important role in the teaching and learning process to improve understanding and student learning outcomes (Maisyaroh & Dewi, 2022: 43).

Learning outcomes are abilities acquired by students or children after going through and carrying out learning activities, thus it is necessary to know the factors related to learning outcomes to improve the quality of education. Student learning outcomes are assessed based on two domains, namely the cognitive domain and the affective domain (Khoiriyah *et al.*, 2015: 55).

Popular scientific books are books that are written in a way that is easy for the general public to understand and understand (Jendral Soedirman University, 2016). Popular scientific books as learning resources can be used to attract students' interest because of their simple form, contain information, are easy to understand, and provide a variety of views so they are not boring (Irwandi *et al.*, 2019: 48).

2. Research Methods

2.1 Place and Time of Research

The research was conducted at Bilik Beach, Baluran National Park, Situbondo Regency, in the intertidal zone. The research was conducted at the maximum low tide that is when the full moon. Morphological identification was carried out at the beach resort of Bilik Baluran National Park. The research was carried out in February 2022 - May 2022. Data collection for Asteroidea Class samples was carried out when the sea water reached its maximum ebb.

2.2 Tools and Materials

The tools used in this study were field study stationery (chest board, pencil, writing paper and ruler), thermometer sticks to measure water temperature, pH meter to measure the degree of acidity of water, thick gloves for sampling, plastic bags, tape measure, refractometer, plastic jar as Asteroidea container, raffia, Echinodermata identity book and DSLR camera (1200 D) for documentation of the Asteroidea found.

The materials used in this study were label paper, tissue paper, sterile distilled water.

2.3 Sampling Method

Asteroidea data collection uses the direct observation method, with research data collection techniques directly to the research object. The location used in the study was Baluran National Park's Bilik Beach using three location points within

50 meters of the coastline. The method used in this study was the method of plotting transects with a size of 1x1m² systematically along the transect. The distance between transects is 10 m with each transect being plotted. This method was carried out at three research station locations in Bilik Beach, Baluran National Park.



Figure 1. Sampling station locations

Coordinate point:

Station I: 7°45'03"S 114°22'21"E

Station II: 7°45'05"S 114°22'23"E

Station III: 7°45'10"S 114°22'25"E

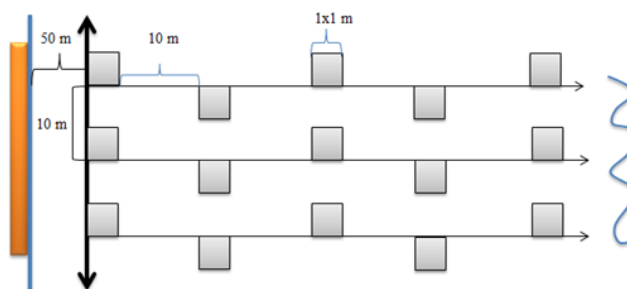








Figure 2. Positioning of the main transect axes and plotting

Information:

-  : Mainland
-  : Plots
-  : Coastlin
-  : Main axis
-  : Line
-  : Sea



2.4 Starfish Identification

The process of identifying starfish includes describing the morphological characteristics of the starfish found. The morphological structures include dorsal and ventral body structures, tube feet type, paxilla, presence or absence of pedicellaria, size of arm length and body color. Morphological observations referred to the reference book (Echinodermata identification book) *"Biology and Ecology of Pharmaceutical Marine Life: Echinoderms"* and then compared with information from the websites itis.gov and GBIF to obtain the most recent taxonomic data.

2.5 Diversity Index Calculation

The calculation of the diversity index of starfish is carried out using the Shannon- Wiener index (Magurran, 2004), with the formula:

$$H' = - \sum p_i \ln p_i \text{ and } p_i = \frac{n_i}{N}$$

Notes:

H': Shannon-Wiener Diversity Index;

pi : Comparison of the number of individuals of a species with the whole species;

ni : Number of individuals for the observed species;

N : Total number of individuals. Criteria for diversity results (H'):

H' < 1 : Low diversity;

H' < 3 : Medium diversity; H' > 3 : High diversity.

3. Results And Discussion

3.1 Results

Based on the process of identifying samples of sea stars found in Bilik Beach found 2 species consisting of 2 families (Table 1).

Table 1. Results of identification of starfish species found in Bilik Beach

No.	Family	Species
1.	Archasteridae	<i>Archaster typicus</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1840)
2.	Ophidiasteridae	<i>Linckia laevigata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)

The description of each species of starfish (Asteroidea) found is as follows.

***Archaster typicus* (Müller & Troschel, 1840)**

Archaster typicus (Müller & Troschel, 1840) is gray-brown with freckles, has five arms and a flattened body. The sleeves are pointed and have a transverse brown stripe pattern. *Archaster typicus* on the aboral side there is a madreporite which functions as a water circulation system and there is an anus. The morphology of the oral part of the starfish consists of a mouth, cylindrical tube feet and openings of the ambulacral system. This species has a body covered with spines on the inferolateral side. *Archaster typicus* has thorns that are white and are blunt and flat. This species has a habitat in a sandy substrate

***Linckia laevigata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

The species *Linckia laevigata* (Linnaeus, 1758) was found to be solitary, has five cylindrical arms and blunt ends, has an overall length of 20-21 cm and a strong body structure. The oral part of this species has an ambulacral and mouth, while the aboral part has a madreporite adjacent to the anus. This species has a smooth surface, there are tube feet (tube feet) without suckers which are white in color, there are small granules that cover the discs. *Linckia laevigata* has a deep blue color. This type of starfish is commonly found around coral reefs.



Figure 3. *Archaster typicus* (Müller & Troschel, 1840)

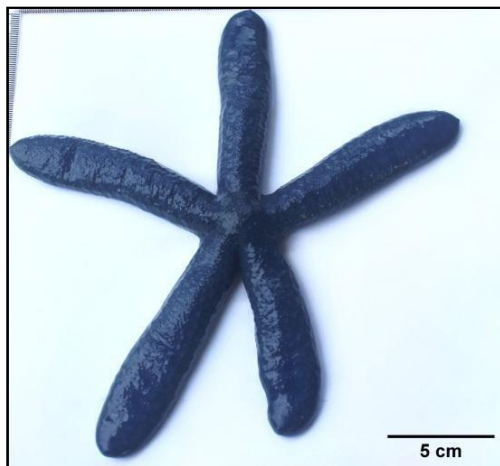


Figure 4. *Linckia laevigata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The results of the identification of the starfish samples obtained showed that there were 2 species found at Baluran National Park Bilik Beach. The distribution of starfish is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Distribution of starfish on Bilik Beach

No.	Species name	Station			Number of Individuals	H'
		T1	T2	T3		
1.	<i>Archaster typicus</i>	43	34	33	110	0.44
2.	<i>Linckia laevigata</i>	10	11	0	21	
	Total				131	
	Number of types				2	

Note:

T=th station

Based on the calculated data, it is known that the value of the diversity index (H') of starfish on the beach obtained 0.44, which is classified as low. Data from the calculation of the diversity index of starfish at each station can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3. Starfish diversity index at station 1

No.	Species name	Station 1			H'
		L1	L2	L3	
1	<i>Archaster typicus</i>	1	16	8	0.
.	<i>Linckia laevigata</i>	9	0	6	17
2		4			0.
.					31
	Total				0.
					48

Note:

L = Transect to-

Based on the calculation results in table 3 above, it can be seen that the value of the diversity index (H') of starfish at station 1 Bilik Beach Baluran National Park is low, while the results of calculating the diversity index of starfish at station 2 of Bilik Beach can be seen in Table 4

Table 4. Starfish diversity index at station 2 Bilik Beach

No	Species name	Station 2			H'
		L1	L2	L3	
1	<i>Archaster typicus</i>	1	9	1	0.21
.	<i>Linckia laevigata</i>	1	2	4	0.34
2		5		4	
.					
	Total				0.
					55

Note:

L = Transect to-

Based on the calculation results in Table 4 above, it can be seen that the value of the diversity index of starfish at station 2. Bilik Beach was obtained 0.55 which is classified as in the medium category. While the results of calculating the diversity index of starfish at station 3 can be seen in Table 5.

Table 5. Starfish diversity index at station 3 Bilik Beach

No	Species name	Station 2			H'
		L1	L2	L3	
1	<i>Archaster typicus</i>	12	1	8	0
.			3		
	Total				0

Note:

L = Transect to-

Based on the calculation results in Table 5, the value of the diversity index for sea stars is H' of 0, which means the diversity value is low. Each sampling location has different abiotic conditions. The abiotic conditions of each location can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6. Abiotic conditions of the sampling locations

Parameter	Stations (Average number)		
	T1	T2	T3
Temperature (°C)	27.5	27,8	28,8
Salinity (ppt)	30,3	30,8	30,6
Water pH (Potential hydrogen)	8.01	8,22	8.36
DO (Dissolved oxygen)	4,9	4.93	4.88
Light intensity (lux)	14146.6	16,990	17,770

substrate Rocks, coral, sand Sandstone Sandstone
coral

Note:

T: The station

Test the Validity of Popular Scientific Books

Validity data is used with the aim of testing the validity of research products that have been developed (Retnowati *et al.*, 2015: 34). Popular scientific books that have been compiled are then submitted to the validator to be tested for product validation. Product validation is carried out by material experts, media experts and the user community. The validation test by material experts and media experts was carried out by the Biology Education Lecturer at FKIP University of Jember. Test validation by users who are the community. The validation test results obtained from the two lecturers and the community can be seen in Table 7 below.

Table 7. Popular Scientific Book Validation Test Results

Validators	Total score	Score	Category
Material expert	59	82,86	Worthy
Media expert	105	84	Worthy
User	79	75,2	Worthy
Average		80.6	Worthy

1.1 Discussion

Based on the results of the calculation of the diversity index of starfish (Asteroidea) is 0.44. This figure is included in the low category ($H' < 1$). The diversity index of starfish (Asteroidea) at station I of the cubicle beach was 0.48, station II was 0.55 and station III was 0. Each research station location had different characters, so the diversity of starfish found at each location was also varies.

The high or low value of diversity is caused by various factors, including the number of individuals found, the

abundance of a species found, the homogeneity of the substrate and the conditions of two important coastal ecosystems (paddocks, sea grasses and coral reefs) as habitats for aquatic fauna (Ernawati *et al.*, 2019:50). The smaller the species uniformity index value in the community, it means that the total distribution of the number of individuals of each species is not the same, namely there is a tendency that the community is dominated by certain species (Suwartimah *et al.*, 2017: 59).

The first factor affecting the diversity value of starfish (Asteroidea) is the number and types of starfish (Asteroidea) found in the intertidal zone of the coast of Bilik Baluran National Park. According to Nurafni (2019), a community is said to have high species diversity if there are many species with relatively even or nearly the same number of individuals of each species. There are two types of starfish (Asteroidea) found on Bilik Beach, namely *Linckia laevigata* and *Archaster typicus*. The number of individuals found on Bilik Beach is quite large, this is because *Archaster typicus* lives in groups and is easily adaptable and *Linckia laevigata* has the ability to regenerate.

The second factor is the spread of individuals. Diversity is not only seen from the large number of species, but also seen from the distribution of individuals from each species (Simatupang *et al.*, 2017: 101). Diversity has a high value because the number of species and each individual is found evenly. However, the diversity value is low if the number of each individual obtained is not evenly distributed (Nurafni, 2019). The results showed that the diversity value of *Linckia laevigata* was higher than *Archaster typicus* because *Linckia laevigata* species have an even distribution.

Research on the diversity of starfish species (Asteroidea) has previously been carried out by Yuanditra (2015) and Vendi (2016) at Bama Beach. When compared to the Bama Beach area of Baluran National Park, the condition of starfish fauna (Asteroidea) found on Bama Beach has greater diversity. The results of Yuanditra's research (2015) show that there are three types of starfish species on Bama Beach, namely *Archaster typicus*, *Linckia laevigata* and *Asteropsis carinifera*. Vendi (2016), found 3 types of starfish (Asteroidea) in his research namely *Linckia laevigata*, *Archaster typicus* and *Echinaster callosus*.

Humans are also thought to play a role in the low diversity of starfish, because many are taken both live and dead for aquarium decorations and souvenirs (Hartati *et al.*, 2018: 46). Baluran National Park Bilik Beach is used as a tourist spot during the dry season. In addition, this beach is the main route for sea transportation from settlements to the highway during the rainy season and fishing activities, thus affecting the existence of biota communities in these waters.

The fourth factor that affects the diversity index is the abiotic environmental conditions which include temperature, salinity, sunlight intensity and degree of acidity (pH). Water temperature affects the metabolic activity of starfish. The temperature is still within the tolerance limit for starfish life, which ranges from 25°C to 30°C (Aziz, 1998). Another abiotic factor that affects the diversity of starfish is pH. Beaches with a pH of 7 – 7.5 are included in the normal range for starfish life.

The salinity (salt content) of water in the environment affects the water balance in organisms' bodies, so changes in salinity also affect the mechanisms of diffusion and osmosis (Siwi *et al.*, 217:122). According to Aziz (1998), starfish have a salinity tolerance limit of 30 – 34‰. Starfish larvae are more sensitive to the effect of decreasing or increasing salinity, in contrast to adult starfish.

Substrate affects the diversity of starfish, this is because the availability of food is more in sandy substrates such as detritus litter deposits. According to Aziz (1997) several types of starfish like muddy sand bottoms, this is related to starfish as sediment or detritus eaters. There are only a few seagrass beds in Bilik Beach, which is a factor causing low diversity. According to Supono and Arbi (2010), starfish also like seagrass substrates, this is because their main food is seagrass, detritus and seaweed.

Based on data obtained from research at Bilik Beach, station I has a temperature range of 27.2–27.8 °C so that an average of 27.5 °C is obtained. Station II is 27.6–28 °C so that an average of 27.8 °C is obtained. Station III obtained 28.4–29 °C so that an average of 28.4 °C was obtained. The temperature at the three stations is still within the tolerance limit for starfish life. Sea water temperature greatly affects the spawning of starfish (Asteroidea). The optimal temperature to support the life of starfish is 25–30°C (Aziz, 1998).

The salinity found at each station varies, at station I it is 30–30.5 ppt and an average of 30.3 ppt is obtained. Salinity found at station II is 30.6–31 ppt so that an average of 30.8 ppt is obtained, at station III it is obtained 30.5–31 ppt with an average of 30.6 ppt. Based on the abiotic data at the three stations, it supports the life of starfish (Asteroidea). According to Aziz (2007) states that starfish (Asteroidea) are animals that are

classified as stenohalin, so they are very sensitive to changes in salinity. The ideal salinity range for starfish life is 29-33 ppt. A low salinity range (23-26 ppt) will cause changes in color pigments so that starfish will become inactive, refuse to eat and result in death (Rominmohartono, 2007).

The pH conditions found at each station were slightly different, at station I a pH of 7.84-8.28 was obtained so that an average of 8.01 was obtained. Station II obtained a susceptible pH of 7.94-8.40, resulting in an average pH of 8.22. Station III obtained a pH of 8.12-8.50 so that an average of 8.36 was obtained. According to Katili (2011), pH is a limiting factor for organisms that live in a waters. Water with a pH that is too high or low can affect the survival of organisms. According to Effendi (2003) states that marine biota likes a pH range of 7-8.5. This statement is reinforced by Odum (1971), the safe limit for aquatic life ranges from 6.5-8.0.

The DO conditions found at each station varied, at station I the range was 4.89-5.6 mg/l so that an average of 4.9 mg/l was obtained. Station II obtained DO susceptible 4.60-5.12 mg/l resulting in an average of 4.9 mg/l, and at station III obtained DO 4.6-5.12 mg/l resulting in an average of 4.93. According to Simanjuntak (2007) oxygen levels in waters are strongly influenced by an increase in organic matter entering the waters, and other factors such as temperature rise, salinity, respiration, the presence of layers above the surface of the water, compounds that are easily oxidized, and pressure. atmosphere.

In general, dissolved oxygen found in the intertidal zone of Bilik Beach is still in accordance with the quality standards for marine life. Rivai (1983) said that in general an oxygen content of 5 mg/l with water temperatures ranging from 20-30 °C is relatively good. According to Sutamihardja (1987) states that the oxygen level in lightly polluted marine waters is 5 mg/l.

Light has a major influence on marine animals, namely as a source of energy for the photosynthetic process of plants which are a source of food and a provider of oxygen. Light is also an important factor in relation to the movement of marine animal populations (Romimohtarto and Juana, 2009). The data from the measurement of light intensity obtained at each station was slightly different, at station I it was obtained 12,630-12,590 lux and an average of 14,146.6 lux was obtained. The light intensity at station II ranged from 16,890-17,150 lux and obtained an average of 16,990 lux, and at station III it was found to be in the range of 16,370-17,540 lux and obtained an average of 16,770 lux.

Some types of starfish (Asteroidea) like muddy sand bottoms, this is related to their eating habits as sediment or detritus. The location of the research conducted at Bilik Beach has a substrate of sand, rocks and coral rubble. *Linckia laevigata* species are found on rock and coral substrates, while *Archaster typicus* species are found on sand substrates.

Linckia laevigata found on Bilik Beach with an average temperature range of 27.5-

27.8 °C, an average salinity range of 30.3-

30.8 ppt, an average pH range of 8.01-8.22, an average DO range average 4.88- 4.93, average light intensity 14146.6- 16990 lux, the type of substrate is rocks and coral. *Linckia laevigata* is also known as an algae-eating starfish. This type of starfish can live in a substrate of sand, rocks and other solid objects which are algae attachment sites.

Like other echinoderms, starfish are also known as true sea dwellers, with a tolerance limit of salinity between 30 ppt to 34 ppt (Zamani, 2015: 7-8). *Archaster typicus* is found on Bilik Beach with an average temperature range of 27.5-28.8 °C, an average salinity range of 30.3-30.8 ppt, an average pH range of 8.01-8.36, DO range average 4.88-4.93, light intensity 14146.6-17770 lux, sand substrate type. The type of starfish *Archaster typicus* lives in groups on a sand substrate. This is in accordance with Alfatmadina (2019) that *Archaster typicus* is found on sandy substrates in shallow waters

Utilization of research results as a source of learning biology

Learning is organized not only to make students have cognitive skills, but also to have skills to apply in their lives (A'yun *et al.*, 2018:1). The results of an inventory of sea stars (Asteroidea) found in Baluran National Park Bilik Beach are made into a learning resource in the form of popular scientific books. A popular scientific book entitled "Diversity of Starfish (Asteroidea) in Bilik Beach Baluran National Park" has gone through the validation stage of media experts, material experts and users.

Popular scientific books consist of a cover, title page, preface, table of contents, introduction, material, bibliography, index, glossary and about the author. Based on the results of the feasibility validation test of popular scientific books, an average value of 80.6 is obtained which is in the feasible category. Based on these

results, a popular scientific book about the diversity of starfish (Asteroidea) in Baluran National Park Bilik Beach can be used as reading material by adding and considering the contents of the book.

4. Conclusion

The diversity level of starfish (Asteroidea) in Bilik Beach, Baluran National Park, is low with a diversity index of 0.44. Abiotic conditions at Bilik Beach Baluran National Park are ideal for the life of starfish (Asteroidea) with an average water temperature range of 27.5- 28.8 °C, salinity 30.3-30.6 ppt, pH 8.01-8.36, DO 4.88-4.93, light intensity 14146.6- 17770 lux and rock substrate, coral, sand. The results of the popular scientific book validation test obtained an average of 80.6 in the feasible category.

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