



## PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE MANGROVE CRAB, *Ucides cordatus* (LINNAEUS, 1763) (BRACHYURA: OCYPODIDAE), ACCORDING TO CRAB GATHERERS IN CANANÉIA (SP), BRAZIL

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*Ucides cordatus* (Linnaeus, 1763) is an endemic mangrove crab that might have its population biology affected by Global Climate Changes (GCC). Spatial distribution of this species can be affected by sea level rise, with recruitment occurring towards more emerged areas adjacent to mangroves, generally occupied by urbanization. This hydric dynamic promotes reduction of the mangrove area, reduces the environment disponsible to juvenile settlement, which would harm the income and vulnerability of crab gatherers. The mangroves of Cananéia municipality are located in the southern part of São Paulo State (Brazil) and present high extraction of *U. cordatus*, due to its large extension and conservation. Individual interviews were carried out by the authors with 22 local crab gatherers to investigate the perception about GCC and their impacts on *U. cordatus* during the period comprising from February to June 2018. The results suggest that fishers have detected climate-related changes in their environment such as temperature increase (air and water) and changes in wind patterns. The majority (91%) of these crab gatherers were men, with age ranges from 30 to 60 years-old (mean  $\pm$  standard deviation: 49  $\pm$  11 yo), 68% of them are economically dependent on the artisanal fishery based on *U. cordatus* gathered. The crab gatherers have a high level of knowledge of many mangrove situations only by observation, some of them posteriorly confirmed by researchers and find in the literature. Despite this fact, just 27% of the interviewed claim to understand that rising sea levels and warming of the water have caused changes in the life cycle of the *U. cordatus*. Most of these fishermen (58%) believe that the main consequence may be increased mortality of juvenile crabs in mangroves, revealing the need to carry out a broader and interdisciplinary approach to support management, climate change policies, and guarantee the sustainability of mangrove socio-ecological systems.

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