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Mercury is the main agent used by small scale miners at Sibutad to extract gold from the mined ore using the amalgamation process.

From the study, it was evident that mercury is present in the different environmental compartments. As to why these compartments were considered in the said study, our presenter would elaborate later.

All sampling sites exceeded the allowable limit for seawater set at 2ppb. Stations nearest in proximity to the mining area tend to acquire higher concentrations in all the compartments (water, suspended particles, sediment).

Among the sampled species in the bay, *Circe Scripta*, commonly known as Script Venus at Station 2 recorded the highest in mercury content at 9.2 $\mu\text{g/g}$, followed by Saddle Shell (*Placuna ehippium*) also from Station 2 and *Strombus* sp. from Station 3 with 3 $\mu\text{g/g}$ and 2.7 $\mu\text{g/g}$ respectively. These results are above the standard set by the Philippine Government of 0.5 $\mu\text{g/g}$. Could the results be different if sampling was done during summer time?

Regression analysis showed that mercury concentration in tissues of three out of four species commonly found in the area, correlated with dissolved mercury and suspended particles.

Only Fenestrate Top (*Tectus fenest ratus*) showed linear relationship with all three compartments. Scapha Ark (*Anadara scapha*) showed significant linear relationships between tissue concentrations with suspended particles and sediments.

When multi-linear regression was applied to mercury concentrations in all ten species studied, significant correlation relationship was observed with dissolved mercury.

Could the type of species be a factor in the degree of accumulation of mercury in the tissue. Can we consider the configuration of the bay and current be a contributory factor for mercury deposition in the area?

I just hope that the result of the study will help the LGU in the management of the bay in a sustainable way to benefit the small scale miners and the local resident who depend their livelihood on the bay.