

PREFACE

This Supplement is a collection of research papers by the Taiwanese research team at the National Taiwan Ocean University (NTOU) and other distinguished scholars. The papers here document the marine and freshwater biodiversity and biological knowledge in the South China Sea and its surrounding waters.

The proposal for this Supplement was first suggested as a means to expand the biodiversity and biological research work around the South China Sea and also to publish research papers from the Taiwanese biodiversity research team at NTOU. With the support of Professor Chin-Hwa Hu, Director of the Center for Marine Bioscience and Biotechnology (CMBB), NTOU, and Professor Peter K. L. Ng, Director of the Raffles Museum for Biodiversity Research (RMBR), National University of Singapore (NUS), and Editor-in-Chief of the Raffles Bulletin of Zoology (RBZ), an agreement was reached to produce a supplement of the RBZ for this purpose.

NTOU faculty members, their students and collaborators contributed the results of their research work on marine and freshwater biodiversity carried out at NTOU. Several of the faculty members also collaborated with various several overseas scholars to present their findings here. This Supplement may be also regarded as an extension of the research results published in Supplement 8 of the RBZ, which presented biodiversity information of the South China Sea.

In this Supplement, we bring together 25 papers that mostly document the biodiversity of fishes, crustaceans, other marine invertebrates, fungi and marine algae of the South China Sea and its surrounding regions. Although most of the papers are contributed by NTOU faculty members, 12 collaborators and research work by distinguished researchers from 7 different countries are also presented here. This Supplement validates 1 new genus, 13 new fish species, 9 new marine invertebrates species and 1 new red alga species. An important extensive update of the checklist of the marine fishes of the South China Sea first published in Supplement 8 of the RBZ in 2000 is also presented here.

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